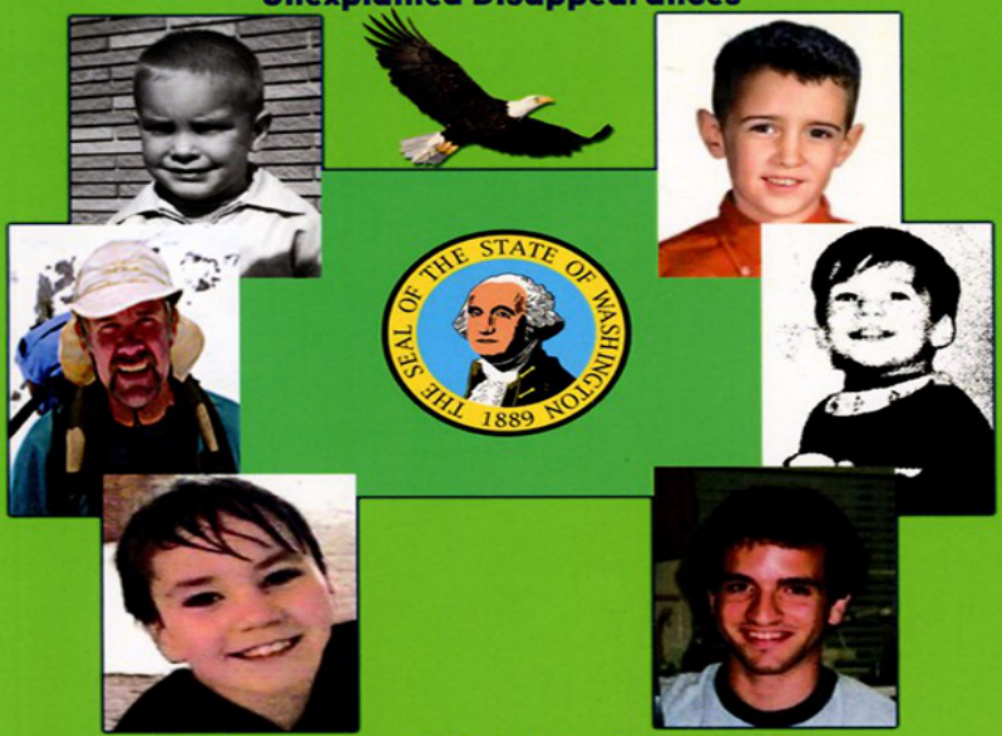
Missing 411

WASHINGTON STATE SERIES

Unexplained Disappearances



DAVID PAULIDES

Missing

411

Washington

•STATE SERIES•

DAVID PAULIDES

State of Washington 42nd State

2020 Census Population: 7,705,281

#13 in List of States by Population Capital: Olympia

Total Area: 71, 298 Square Miles #18 in List of States in Area State Fish: Steelhead State Bird:

Gold Finch

Date of Admission: November 11,1889 Nickname: The Evergreen State Largest City by

Population: Seattle

Copyright 2023 David Paulides All Rights Reserved ISBN: 979-8-89074-560-6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations v

Introduction vii

National Park Service vii

Search and Rescue viii

Profiling ix

Profile Points 1

Cluster Maps 10

Vetting Cases 12

Missing People Stories By Date 14

List of Missing in Washington by Date 297

Cluster Map Anomalies 302

The Boys 305

National Park Disappearances 308

Mount Rainier National Park: Missing People 308

Olympic National Park: Missing People 309

Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument- Missing People 310

Conclusion 311

Index 317

ABBREVIATIONS

ATV All-Terrain Vehicle

CAP Civil Air Patrol

DOI Department of the Interior

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

FLIR Forward Looking Infrared Radar

FOIA Freedom of Information Act

NPS National Park Service

PLS Point Last Seen

RCMP Royal Canadian Mounted Police

SAR Search and Rescue

UFO Unidentified Flying Object

USFS United States Forest Service

INTRODUCTION

This is the third book in our new “State Series.” It focuses on missing people fitting a specific profile developed after twelve years of intensive research. If you had read 25-50 missing person reports, it would be di icult to glean aspects of each case that may exist in bulk. If you read 5000 cases, some parts of those incidents start to show their face. When I first started, I could remember that certain things existed in many reports, and I began to stack these reports in di erent piles in my living room. After several months, the piles got higher, and the stacks increased in number.

When I first started to commit myself to this topic and work my way through law enforcement reposts, search and rescue logs, news articles, and witness statements, I never knew what the path would reveal. I did know that nobody had ever looked at missing person cases in the manner that our team has followed.

National Park Service

Fourteen years of research have revealed that the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service both claim they do not have any lists of missing people. These organizations have large law enforcement branches where their o icers have gone through advanced training, sometimes much more than local law enforcement and sheri s. These departments understand the value of maintaining lists; this can be viewed on the National Park website where they maintain a list of movies filmed on their property; yes, lists are essential. When we asked for the National Park Service to produce a list of missing people, they told us that it would cost us $ 1,400,000.

It may surprise you the number of people that are missing in Washington that have never been found. These bodies are scattered throughout the state and Mount Rainier National Park. These are incidents that have devastated families and left them without closure to an experience that will follow them a lifetime.

Search and Rescue

A book about missing people cannot be penned without addressing the men and women of search and rescue. SAR teams are 95% volunteers, and these same volunteers accomplish the vast majority of all searching. Some SAR teams require the volunteers to attend and maintain specialized classes that o er certifications that need to be maintained to be part of the team. The classes are paid for by the volunteer on their own time. Once an emergency is declared and the SAR team is deployed, it is the same volunteer that must leave their family and employment and go into the field to search. The only compensation is the joy of saving someone's life when that happens. Many times, the SAR workers search ends in tragedy; the victim dies in the field from a fall, hypothermia, starvation, or something worse, animal predation. I don't believe there are many things in life you can do as a volunteer that is as rewarding as participating as a search and rescue volunteer. I encourage everyone to contact their local SAR team, most easily found through your local sheri 's o ice.

I want to thank each of the police o icers, SAR workers, and coordinators that have contacted us and added to the research. Without your contributions and assistance, these books would not have been possible.

Profiling

Part of our research was the development of profile points. These are parts of the SAR that reveal themselves in many cases and are listed

under each incident's identifiers. A list of these points is found later in the book with a description of each. In the same manner that a criminal profiler goes about their work identifying similarities in a series of criminal cases and then bulks them together, we have done this with missing people; this has never been done before.

We have established that our profile points are a consistent element in the documented cases in the eleven books we have published. While they are not in every incident, just as all robberies cannot be attributed to the same suspect, specific profile points replicate themselves hundreds of times. The most common issue is that a trained Bloodhound/ canine brought to the scene cannot pick up the scent trail or specifically does not want to search in these particular instances. I was in a big city SWAT Team, and the canine unit was attached to our squad. We trained with the canines weekly and got to know them quite well. The dogs were one of the most valuable tools the police department maintained. The idea of one of these dogs not being interested in the search or not wanting to participate never happened. The dogs lived for the hunt; they were ecstatic to get into the field and find a bad guy; this was their life. To read stories about dogs not wanting to search, walking down a trail a few feet, turning around and coming back to the feet of the handler and laying down simply never happened, but it does. The canines' action is a very confusing part of these scenarios that we do not understand, and more importantly, we don't have a grip on what may be influencing their behavior.

Victims

When we first started this research, I contacted several missing person groups, explained what I was preparing to undertake, and asked how I could avoid making a mistake and walking around the land mines. One of the points that were consistently made was that if I was going to write about the cases, do not proactively contact the victims as many will feel they were re-victimized by the telling of their incident. I took this advice and found that many victim families contacted me over the years, which led to several great relationships that I treasure greatly. I personally want to thank the victims and their families who have given us their information and express extreme gratitude for their trust.

As you read this book, mark it up, make notes, look for parallels in the locations, incidents, ages, locations, topography, and a multitude of other factors that revels themselves. I know that thousands of readers have followed this path and have added to our research.

Profile Points

Canine Cannot Find a Scent, Victim Missing With a Canine

In nearly 99% of the cases I have documented, Bloodhounds brought to the point where the victim was last seen cannot find a scent, aren't interested in tracking, or seem oblivious to the smell. As a former member of a law enforcement SWAT team with the canine unit attached to our division, I can guarantee that these dogs love their job and relish tracking people. When I first came across the anomaly of dogs not finding a scent or unwilling to follow, I thought it might be an isolated issue. This is one of the most prevalent profile points in the cases we have identi-fied.

Weather

In most of the cases highlighted in the eleven books, the weather has a significant impact on the rescue or recovery of the victim. The weather seems to take a turn for the worse just as the person is going missing or just after they disappeared. Lousy weather includes blizzards, fog, rain, snow, hail, dust storms, extremely cold and hot temperatures. When you first start to read about this, your natural reaction is that its bad luck. After reading eleven books and seeing the scenario replicate itself time after time, you'll be stunned.

Victims Found in an Area Previously Searched

In Missing 411: The Devil's in the Detail, I present a table showing dozens of cases where the missing person was found in a previously searched area. Sometimes the location of the recovery had been searched dozens of times. In one instance, the searchers had taken the same trail hundreds of times over the week hiking to where they believed the victim was located. On one of those days of the search, a tree had fallen across the path, and the young victim was found lying on it. Nobody could explain the perplexing scenario. In Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I presented many cases where remote vehicles, divers, etc, searched a body of water, and then the victim was found precisely where searchers had just left. Many readers have stated that it appears the victim has been placed there to be located. In the past few years, we have been told by other researchers that they think the people were dropped into place to be found. Nobody ever observes the victims arriving in the area. How the victims got to the space where they are eventually located is one of the most perplexing issues.

Missing Clothes or Shoes

Often the victims are found without shoes or missing pieces of clothing. It doesn't matter the type of climate; this has been documented in all kinds of weather. There have been people who have never read the books that make claims that this is due to hypothermia. The issue with that is that there are many small children that are located missing clothing, and their parents state that they could not remove their clothes. In other instances, on a warm afternoon, a person disappears. Hundreds of yards from the location he or she was last seen, searchers find a pile of clothing: The victim didn't have the time to get to the hypothermia state, yet all of their clothes had been removed. You will read stories in this book where clothing and shoes had been removed under highly unusual circumstances.

Time of Disappearance

The vast majority of disappearances occur in the late afternoon or early evening. In Missing 411: O the Grid, there is a table on page 358 that shows cumulative data from seven books. The predominant time disappearances occur is just before it gets dark; that fact hasn't changed.

Disability or Illness

An abnormal number of missing has some disability or illness. This fact only shows itself after vetting thousands of cases. Many readers have stated that it appears to them as though someone or something is closely monitoring these people and wants to understand more about their genetic markers.

Lack of Memory

It's rare when a victim is found; it's extremely rare when they are found alive. In the instances where a victim can talk and be questioned, the vast majority cannot remember how they got lost or what happened while they were missing. In almost every instance where a victim is found alive, searchers and law enforcement rarely sit with them and debrief about the experience. The e ort may be futile as the victim's memory may be blank.

Missing Are Often Found Near Creeks, Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, Ocean and Streams

In my book, Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I documented over 100 cases where young men vanished, sometimes in a large crowd of friends. Nobody can explain where the person went or how they left. Days, sometimes weeks, later, he is found in a body of water,

deceased. Just as in previous books, there is a geographical clustering of the missing. I would refer readers to our geographical cluster map of North America for details on this portion of the research.

In my first four Missing 411 books, many victims were found near creeks, rivers, and ponds, and many times the victims would've had to travel unusual and rugged terrain to get to those places.

In many instances, the victim is found amongst rocks and boulders adjacent to the body of water.

Boulders and Granite

The most significant cluster of missing people anywhere globally that matches our criteria is Yosemite National Park. Yosemite happens to be one of those locations in the world that has a high concentration of granite. There are many people documented in our books that are found in boulder fields, amongst boulders and large rocks.

Swamps and Bogs

Some readers will find the fact that many missing people are located in the middle of swamps and bogs a highly unusual place to find victims. I have lost count of the number of times this fact has proven itself to be true. Marshes are one of those places that the general public won't casually wander. It could be considered one of those locations where few people ever trek. It is also a place discounted by many SAR personnel as too di icult for the victim to travel.

Religion Readers have asked in the past if the person was "strongly religious.?" I want the audience to reflect on that question. Strongly religious to one person may not be to another. Religion is a highly personal issue that some people do not feel comfortable discussing with others. If the person was a ranking member in a religious organization, that is easy to identify their commitment. Religion is also an issue that you won't find discussed in any search and rescue or law enforcement reports; it's a side issue. If I can find information on a victim that discusses their religious background and interests, I will include that information. It is unimportant to me what religious a iliation an individual may have as to if I include the information.

Point of Separation

After reviewing thousands of reports, one unusual profile point emerged, Point of Separation. I want readers to have an awareness of when two people decide to part company. I've always claimed that a

hiker traveling alone in the mountains will probably be more safety conscious than someone traveling with a group. I can attest that when I am alone, I am much more cognizant of my surroundings and the inherent danger of what I might be doing. I know that if I break my leg in the wild, I'm alone against the elements with nobody to seek assistance on my behalf.

I am continuing a practice I started in my last book of reinforcing the moment of separation. When I tell the story, at the point the person leaves the presence of others; I am going to strengthen this moment by including the statement, "point of separation." I want you to know that they have left the safety of numbers and are now alone. Hundreds have written to me about this point and that it appears as though the victim was being watched—and when they were vulnerable and isolated, the unusual happened.

Equipment Malfunction

In documenting hundreds of missing people, you will eventually read about the air support with all SARs. There are a high number of engine and equipment issues associated with the SAR. I think the facts surrounding an equipment issue are essential, and I add it again below.

When I was writing Missing 411: Hunters, I came across a cluster of missing sportsmen in an area within 5 miles from Lake Superior on the Wisconsin-Michigan border. On November 21, 1948, Frank Naslund went hunting with three other friends in this exact area. Sometime in the early morning hours, the men separated to hunt. Three of the four hunters made it back to their vehicles at lunch. Frank didn't arrive, and a search was initiated.

Late in the afternoon on November 22, Frank found a fire cut and followed it until he came to a roadway and got assistance. The reason this story is here is for what Frank told a reporter in a November 23, 1948 article in the Rhinelander Daily News'. "He said his compass was not functioning properly and he built a fire alongside a creek and spent a night there."

A malfunctioning compass is a factor in disappearances that nobody has addressed. Anomalies in the environment that would cause a compass to malfunction are a fascinating topic to explore. In Frank's case, we don't know if he had a broken compass or something in the environment that caused Frank's instrument to malfunction. If it was something in the atmosphere, could this contribute to many of the

disappearances in this and other areas? With the advancements made in GPS technology, people carry trail guides and other items based on this technology. The compass has taken a backseat to GPS in need to determine location, direction, and route. I realize that various types of rocks can a ect the materials used in the manufacture of a compass. Could rocks have had an impact on how the compass operated? Could something else have been happening in Frank's location that impacted how it functioned? This is good food for thought. Now take the issue of the compass and transfer that to instruments on airplanes. Could the crashes in the triangles be related to some atmospheric anomaly that e ects engines and devices? If a compass is malfunctioning on the ground, could the same be happening above?

Intellectuals

This is the newest Profile Point. Early in our research we started to see a large number of brilliant people that disappeared, the vast majority never found. The brilliant individuals included University Professors, physicians, physicists and business men. It wasn't that these people disappeared, the important point is that their case matched our profile points.

No Tracks

An Extensive search of the area reveals no tracks of the victim.

Notes

Many of you will mark this book up extensively with notes and thoughts on cases; I encourage this. I've had readers tell me that they've read each book three or four times to absorb raw facts. In each case, I have attempted to leave several notes to identify source material. Many of the case facts came directly from SAR and law enforcement reports.

The NPS has given me the designation of a "Commercial Requestor" for all FOIA requests. This essentially means they can charge me up to four times what they charge the average citizen for documents and materials. This is a blatant attempt to detract us from requesting and obtaining missing person reports, as they know we can't a ord those outrageous prices. Many of you have stepped forward and o ered to seek case files on our behalf and allow our research to continue; this is sincerely appreciated. Your continued and ongoing support is needed for us to further our work. My contact information is on the last page of this book.

Cluster Maps

This is the third time we include a state cluster map with a book. The mapping of cases is critical to understand the flow of incidents, the topography of the area an incident occurs, and the sexes associated with specific clusters. The state map included with this book contains bright orange circles, representing a cluster of missing people.

In reviewing the Washington cluster map, you will see a dearth of cases in the greater Mount Rainier Area and the general area of Olympic National Park.

Our team has had over thirty maps sent to us where readers think they match our North America Cluster Map. These submissions include geographical, topographical, crypto, railroads, and everything else you can imagine. I encourage you to watch our third documentary, Missing 411 The UFO Connection for that epiphany moment about the United States Cluster Map.

Almost everyone observes the North America Cluster map di erently. We have identified 63 clusters of missing people in North America. When we start to map state by state, as we did Montana, Idaho and now Washington, we recognize there are many more mini clusters that we ever understood. The mapping of cases is critical to understand the distribution of the missing. We encourage everyone to obtain the North America Cluster map, put it on the wall in your o ice; it will be an immediate conversation starter that will hopefully lead to answers.

Vetting Cases

After reading thousands of SAR and law enforcement reports on missing people, we developed a series of vetting points. These items determine if we exclude a case from the study. The facts we rely upon come directly from SAR members, reports, news archives, and witness statements.

Voluntary Disappearance: if the evidence is presented that the person planned to disappear and wanted to fall out of society, this is an exclusionary point.

Mental Health: If the individual has a history of mental health issues, we will not include the case in studies.

Animal Predation: Some think animal attacks are challenging to locate and understand. When a mountain lion or bear attacks a person in the wild, the victim will fight for their life. The scene will include blood,

skin tissue, and drag marks, the ground will be torn up, and bits of clothing will be located. SAR teams are trained to look for and find predation areas. In conferences, I routinely ask attendees how many fatal mountain lion attacks have happened in North America in the last 100 years. Nobody gets this question correct. The answer is 16; that's it. Mountain Lion attacks are not that unusual; fatal attacks are rare. If you see Jaryd Atadero's name on a list of deadly mountain lion attacks, it's a lie. Watch our first documentary, Missing 411; four di erent mountain lion experts wrote that it was not a mountain lion that attacked Jaryd.

I've read many online forums where people who have never read my books or just watched a few videos are convinced that the majority of the disappearances we've documented are caused by predation no.

Criminal Activity: Crime on a mountain trail is rare, but it does happen. If there is evidence that a crime occurred in conjunction with a disappearance, we will exclude that case from our study.

Missing People Stories By Date

Gordon Nevins

Missing: July 8, 1908- 11:00 am, Puyallup

Age at Disappearance: 16 Years

Disability« Water

Some children's lives seem challenged from birth; Gordon Nevins was one of those kids. He was described as a frail boy who looked as though he was 9-10 years old, even though he was 16.

On July 8,1908, Gordon was still recovering from a severe bout with pneumonia. He wanted to go outside and play, and his dad allowed it. He was last seen at 11:00 am near the fairgrounds in Puyallup. When he didn't return for dinner, the family and friends went out to search.

A few people who knew the boy said he was seen playing with other kids. A few people said they saw him on South Hill Road near Woodland Station. When Gordon could not be located, Mr. Nevins decided to call law enforcement. The SAR for Gordon Nevins got significant people to assist almost immediately. Fifty people quickly covered the area near the fairgrounds and then moved to cover both sides of the Puyallup River. In four days of intensive searching, nothing was found. Finally, local ranchers were contacted and have

yet to see Gordon.

Mr. Nevins made a valiant attempt to get Bloodhounds, but none were available.

Community members reached out to “spiritualists,” today known as psychics. A July 13, 1908 article in the News Tribune stated the following about utilizing spiritualists, “Vibrations not working right.” I have had several psychics and remote viewers tell me that they feel as though they are purposely being blocked in some instances at specific times. They need to understand why it is being done or who is doing it.

The final straw in the Nevins search was explained in this July 24,1908 article in the News Tribune, “That Gordon Nevins, the young boy who disappeared from the home here about a month ago, is dead, is the opinion of those who have taken part in the search for him. The general belief is that he became lost in the woods and died from exhaustion and exposure.”

Gordon was never found.

John Gurrad

Missing: July 31, 1909, North of Aberdeen

Age at Disappearance: 35 Years

Canines* Water* Berry Picker* Point of Separation* Previously Searched* Loss of Memory

On July 31,1909, John Gurrad went berry picking with longtime friend Frank Reinhart. Unfortunately, the men got separated sometime during the day, and Gurrad never returned to the trailhead near the Hoquiam River.

Reinhart called for his friend, searched till after dark, and then returned to the city to get assistance.

Many members of the Aberdeen community came to the woods to search for Gurrad. The e ort to locate the man lasted three days. There were some reports that people had seen him in the woods; others stated that he had probably drowned in the river. This August 3, 1909 article in the Bellingham Herald explained what happened when Bloodhounds were brought to the scene, “Yesterday Bloodhounds were placed on his trail and followed tracks to the Hoquiam River,

where the trail merged with that of other berry pickers."

The search went on and o for several days and failed. Then, finally, there was a dramatic turn in the SAR, and is explained in this August 11, 1909 article in the Bellingham Herald, "Less than 3000 feet from where he disappeared ten days ago, and in a territory that has since been tramped almost foot by foot by hundreds of men and hounds, John Gurrad was found Monday by J.R. Morgan, a logger, just as the lost and feeble-minded berry picker was clambering up the side of a ravine."

Morgan stated that he approached Gurrad and asked him a few questions, and he mumbled incoherently. He said it appeared as though Gurrad would flee like a wild animal. Gurrad had scratches over his body. Morgan grabbed Gurrad by the arm and eventually took him to Grays Harbor, and a search was made for a relative. Morgan knew there was a standing reward of $100 for Gurrad, and it was important to him to find a family member.

Gurrad's sister was eventually found by the head of the search and rescue in Aberdeen, Ellis Masten. Masten took custody of Gurrad, transported him to his sisters, and obtained a check for $100 made out to Morgan.

This disappearance hits many of our profile points. Gurrad was berry picking, a sub-group of the missing. He somehow got lost from his partner (point of separation). Canines were brought into the search and couldn't locate the man, but tracked to near a body of water, the river. He was eventually found in an area that had been searched numerous times. When found, Gurrad was questioned and appeared to have lost his memory.

Charles Schmidt

Missing: November 29, 1910- 5:00 pm, Pataha Creek, Blue Mountains

Age at Disappearance: Unknown

Water* Cluster Zone* Point of Separation* Hunter

On November 29, 1910, Charles Schmidt was hunting in the Blue Mountains with friends John Purcell and Milo Tupper, all of Pomeroy.

His friends last saw Schmidt tracking a deer in two feet of snow. His friends followed his tracks until exhaustion and then went back to camp.

On November 30, Schmidt's friends again searched for the hunter and failed to locate him. Purcell and Tupper went back to the city and got 50 people to help them search.

The formal search for Schmidt lasted twelve days, a phenomenal amount of time to dedicate to finding someone in 1910.

Friends and family described Schmidt as a powerful man who was last seen near the head of Pataha Creek in the Blue Mountains. He was a person who could live through the roughest of conditions.

Fifty searchers tromped through the headwaters of Pataha Creek for twelve days and found nothing.

Information about Charles went stale until a September 2, 1911 article in the Spokesman-Review had this, "It is believed that a trace of Charles Schmidt, who disappeared last November, has been found. A Handkerchief was found by a sheepherder and has been identified by Maggie Schmidt as one she gave her brother when he started on his trip. The handkerchief was tied to a tree about four feet above the ground as if to mark the route of some traveler." I could not locate any other articles defining another search nor any details on the exact location of the handkerchief.

As you read through this book, you will understand that the Blue Mountains have had a few bizarre disappearances, some of the strangest I have ever investigated.

Charles Schmidt was never found.

Walter Hays

Missing: December 22, 1912, Tiger Mountain

Age at Disappearance: 25 Years Old

Weather* Hunter* Canines

It is incredible to me the number of highly experienced outdoorsmen that disappear in the wilderness and are never found. After researching missing people for twelve years, I have researched too many men and women with this background that disappear entirely; it's ba ling.

Walter Hays was a 25-year-old living with his family in Taylor. He was a young man raised in the Taylor and Tiger Mountain area. He

was known as an outstanding outdoorsman who spent days camping, and nobody worried. His home was just fifteen miles east of Seatac International Airport today.

On December 21, 1913, Walter told his mom that he was hunting cougar in the Tiger Mountain area, precisely the ground between the Raging River and North Bend. He said he was taking two of their hunting dogs, a rifle, and a backpack with food for two days. The last thing he said was he'd be home between 4-6 pm tomorrow.

On Monday night (December 22), Walter had not returned home. Mrs. Hays became worried and, by the following morning, had contacted the brothers. On Tuesday, the brothers arrived at the home and started to search.

On Wednesday morning (December 24), an extraordinary event happened; both dogs that left with Walter returned. The return of the canines was an ominous sign. The brothers and the mom later told law enforcement that the dogs would never leave Walter.

On Christmas Day, sixteen relatives of the Hays' came to assist in the search. The focus of the investigation per articles was Cougar Mountain. This statement must be clarified as Cougar Mountain is located north of Renton and far from the North Bend area, where Walter was Hunting. I believe the focus of the SAR focus was Tiger Mountain, just north of Taylor, just a mistake in names over time.

On December 26, the Hays family requested law enforcement assistance and got it from Deputy Sheri Matt Starwich from Ravensdale. Matt immediately started to backtrack on Walters's dogs tracks left in the snow, which had dropped after the young hunter left his home. The tracks went to a series of small cabins deep in the woods. This January 6,1913 article in the Tacoma Daily Ledger had details on what was found, "He was not found in any of the four cabins on the line, but his knapsack was found in a portable cabin belonging to the Kent Lumber Company. He had killed a pheasant near there and, from all indications, had stayed there the first night out." This is an exciting development. It tells me that Walter did not plan on going far from that knapsack. There always needed to be clarity on exactly where this cabin was located.

Several articles stated that there were 3-5 feet of snow on the ground, with much of it falling after Walter departed his home.

The formal search lasted two weeks; informally, it went on for a

month.

Many parts of this story intrigued me greatly. Many times people go missing with canines. The fact that the family was adamant that Walter's dogs would never come home without him is bothersome. Where did Walter go that caused the dogs to return home? Searchers never found any animal predation. If a cougar had attacked Walter, there would be blood and torn clothes; it would be a horrible scene easily identifiable in white snow. One central point, if he were attacked, the dogs would've had severe injuries as they would have protected Walter; they had no injuries.

Walter Hays was never found.

W.T. Ho inan

Missing: November 24, 1921, 7:00 p.m., Tacoma Age at Disappearance: 76 Years

Water« Unknown Cause of Death« Point of Separation

This incident is in the book because it matches the disappearances I chronicled in Missing 411, A Sobering Coincidence. All of these incidents center on water, with nobody ever seeing anything.

On November 24, 1921, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Ho man, their son and daughter-in-law, and two friends were returning to Tacoma by boat from a day trip to Seattle. This December 21, 1921 article in the News Tribune had this information on what happened next, "He (W.T.) walked ahead of them on 10th street and was lost in the street crowds on Pacific Avenue." The family searched several blocks and then believed he must've taken a street car home.

The family went to their residence and found that W.T. had not arrived. They waited a few hours and then called law enforcement.

The Tacoma police searched the downtown area for two days and found nothing. One newspaper article stated that the police were "mystified."

The family explained that W.T. was not senile, was fit and thought clearly. They could not think of a scenario where he would purposely disappear. They did add that he had never su ered memory loss.

There was nothing new on the case until December 21 1921. This December 21, 1921 article in the News Tribune had this, "With the

discovery of the body of W.T. Ho man, 76- year-old Parkland resident, floating in the city waterway at 15th and Dock streets, one angle of the mystery which has shrouded the man's disappearance November 24 was partly cleared up Wednesday morning. Police are still at a loss to account for the pioneer's death. The body was found by C.F. Aus, a fisherman residing at 3826 McKinley Avenue."

Even though the streets of downtown Tacoma were crowded when W.T. vanished, nobody witnessed anyone falling in the water. The coroner could never determine the cause of death, a typical finding in these cases. Where was this man for 28 days? What killed him?

Mary Temple

Missing: 04/18/28—10:00 a.m., Newman Lake, WA Age at disappearance: 3 years

Water« Distance Traveled« Missing Shoe

The location of this incident is the area around Newman Lake in far eastern Washington. The lake is on the Idaho border and inside a defined Geographical cluster zone. There are at least eight people missing from this general area. The lake is just 5 miles north of the Spokane River.

Newman Lake is a relatively small body of water northeast of Spokane, Washington. Looking at the area today, it appears to have many homes in an established community. In 1928, the region was remote without standard community services. Frank Temple was a single dad of a 3-year-old daughter, Mary. Frank had lost his wife 2 years earlier over a sudden illness and the family lived with Frank's parents and Mary's two brothers.

On April 18, 1928, at 11:00 a.m., Mary was in the yard picking wild flowers when the family lost sight of her. The group searched the yard, walked into the surrounding area, calling for the girl and received no answer, it was frantic. They scoured the area for over an hour and then asked a neighbor to contact the sheri Spokane County Sheri Floyd Brower arrived with deputies and took control of the SAR. This April 19, 1928, article in the Daily Capital Journal had details, "The Temple Ranch is in an almost inaccessible region, situated in the rugged country, covered with heavy brush and timber. Possemen found no trace of the child, they reported today, no tell-tale bit of clothing or other indication of the direction she had taken. They feared she had been carried away by a hungry cougar or was curled

up dead from the winter like temperature that still hugs the hills at night."

As darkness approached, the weather changed and turned to snowy sleet with temperatures in the high twenties or low thirties. Mr. Temple and the sheri were very concerned about the girl falling victim to hypothermia.

People came in mass to look for Mary, as is described by the April 20, 1928, article in the Klamath News, "The child strayed from home and a posse of 1000 searched the woods, which are frequented by wild animals, for 21 hours, before one man found her sitting, a little dirty and very hungry on a hillside." The fact she was found on a hillside in winter type weather is very surprising. Children will look for shelter to keep warm as the temperatures plummet. More details are found in this April 20, 1928, article in the Arizona Republic, "She was about three miles and a half from the little mountain house where she lives with her father, her two brothers, her grandfather and grandmother."

Searchers were surprised that Mary was awake and somewhat talkative. She didn't say anything about her time missing, other than she was hungry. The sheri was surprised that she wasn't hypothermic and this was addressed in the April 20, 1928, article in the Bend Bulletin, "Presumably Mary found shelter in the underbrush for it was snowing part of the time she was lost." She was only wearing a dress, no coat or sweater. She was found without one shoe.

Sleet and snowy conditions can be more dangerous than straight snow. Sleet can make you wet and cold more quickly as it penetrates your clothing. Snow can be brushed o ; rain is more di icult to repel. Mary had only one shoe, why wasn't her other foot hypothermic? Mary had nothing covering her legs (only wearing a dress), why wasn't she freezing?

SAR manuals state that a 1- to 3-year-old child will be found 95% of the time in a mountain environment in 2.8 miles or less; Mary was located 3.5 miles from her ranch. How was she able to travel 3.5 miles in freezing weather, slippery ground and not be found by 1,000 searchers in the first 20 hours? Adults can hike faster than a toddler; she should've heard people calling for her hours before she was located. I have stated in many stories that children, when cold and tired will curl up and sleep. During the sleeping state, hypothermia can develop. While she was asleep, she was not walking, meaning she had less time to cover the 3.5 miles than the 21 hours she was missing.

The area where this disappearance happened has had many adults and children disappear. Mary is a very lucky girl to have survived. There is always a very unusual dynamic to each of the child cases I document. Articles describing the incident usually say the area is wild with many dangerous animals, as they did for the area around Newman Lake. In all of the cases I have placed in books, there is not one occasion where a small child was attacked by an animal. Is it pure luck that the child isn't attacked, or it something else at play here?

Edward Gross

Missing: October 4, 1931, Mt. St. Helens

Age at Disappearance: 46 Years Old

Hunter* Water* Point of Separation* Canines*

Edward Gross was a significant figure in Kelso in 1931, owning the town's gas station. He knew most of the town residents and enjoyed the surrounding region's outdoors.

On October 2, 1931, Ed and friends Leo Tomany and Herbert Colter left Kelso and drove 25 miles east to the area of Mount St Helens. The men arrived, established a camp, and hunted Saturday without any issues.

On Sunday, October 4, the men decided to hunt separately with the agreement to meet back at camp at the end of the day for the drive back to Kelso. However, Ed never returned to the hunting camp, and his friends called the Cowlitz County Sheri .

Missing Four Days in the Rugged Country Around Base of Mt. St. Helens

Deputies arrived at the camp and immediately formulated a plan to find Ed. The exact spot was the wilderness north of the Mt. St. Helens post o ice. This October 8, 1931 article in the News Tribune had these details, “About 40 men and two Bloodhounds are searching the upper Toutle River district. Gross is as experienced woodsman, and it is believed he must be injured, or he would have found his way out.”

After several days of searching, another search camp was established near a Weyerhauser construction camp on Spirit Lake Road.

After more days of investigation and searching, deputies developed new information, which is relayed in the October 9, 1931 article in the News Tribune, “In the belief that Gross might have followed a deer into the Fawn Lake district from the Ho stedt Peak Region, where he was hunting, the focus of the hunt was to be shifted today by a searching party of 25 woodsmen to that section of the country.”

The sheri didn’t give up on Ed even though many believed he was probably dead somewhere. He retained the services of a famous dog that always found its target and is described in this October 17, 1931 article in the Tacoma Daily, “Arnold Von Minkelried, a famous Seattle dog, abandoned the hunt for Gross also Wednesday. John Ferguson of Woodland has a Bloodhound engaged in the search at present and other volunteers are continuing the search.”

Mrs. Gross posted a $300 reward to keep people looking for her husband.

The e ort to locate Ed is one of the longest I have ever seen at this time in the United States. Of course, it always helps when the missing is a prominent person in the community, as was Ed.

The two-week e ort to find Edward Gross failed. The best search and rescue dogs in the western United States could not locate the hunter.

The case’s location has always been a region with strange incidents, as you will read later in this book. There was also this note in the October 7, 1931 article in the News Tribune, “Thirty-nine years ago, in this same region, which is one of the wildest sections in southwest Washington, Seth Catlin was lost while hunting and was never found.” I did a massive archive search and did locate a man by that name that did disappear crossing a river, and it was assumed he drowned. I could not find any association with hunting.

One of the comments that was made by a sheri 's deputy about Ed was that he was one of the most experienced outdoorsmen in this area of Washington. What happened?

Julius Bakken

Missing: 11/09/31-Noon, Coles Corner, WA Age at disappearance: 21 years

Point of Separation* Weather* Canines* Cluster Zone* Hunter

This is another case of an individual vanishing in the Wenatchee Lake area. Julius went to the region with four other friends to hunt near Fish Lake, just one mile north of Wenatchee Lake. On November 9, the group decided to split up and meet back at noon. Julius never made the meeting, and law enforcement was called.

Snow was falling on November 9 and continued to cover tracks in the area over the next several days. Searchers spent two days scouring the Fish Lake area and then moved their e orts just north to an area called Meadow Creek. Bloodhounds were used in both locations, and no scent of Julius was ever found. The last place his companions saw Julius was on Pole Ridge, just one mile from Fish Lake.

Search e orts continued for ten days, and they never found anything confirming Julius was in the region. The last article I found was published on November 19, and it confirmed that the search was being terminated. I could not find any other articles ever stating that his body was located.

The area around Lake Chelan is one of the strangest locations in North America for missing people. As you read the stories in this book and refer to the Washington missing person map, you will have several epiphanies about this area.

I.R. Snyder Missing: 11/01/37, Rogers Pass Age at Disappearance: 70 Years Disabled* No Tracks* Water

I.R. Snyder lived alone in a cabin at Rogers Pass on the Pend Oreille Highway in Pend Oreille County. The pass has an elevation of 2,487 feet. There are over ten bodies of water with two miles of the pass.

This location was very remote, with few inhabitants in 1937.

On November 1, 1937, Mrs. Snyder realized her husband missing for several hours. She searched the home, then the property, and then

went to one of the few locals nearby. She couldn't locate her husband and called the sheri for assistance. This November 4, 1937 article in the Spokesman-Review had these details, "Fifty men from the veteran's CCC camp at Usk were in the group that worked all day Tuesday and Today. Snyder was lame and required two canes to get about."

HUNT LAME MAN
IN ROGERS PASS

Placed in story for "I.R. Snyder"

Everyone in the area knew that LR. would not travel far and always stayed close to home and his wife. He had never been known to leave and had no known dementia.

Mrs. Snyder o ered a $50 reward for anyone who found her husband. The intention behind the reward was to keep people in the forest searching.

There was some talk that the only option for not finding Mr. Snyder after an intensive ten-day SAR, was that he got a ride out of the area. The tra ic on the highway in 1937 was minimal, and the dust generated by passing cars would let everyone know when a car passed. Nobody remembered any vehicles passing in the time frame Snyder disappeared.

LR. Snyder was never found.

Jackie Helman

Missing: 01/02/41-3:00 p.m., Badger Pocket, WA Age at disappearance: 6 years

Canines* Water* Distance Traveled

The Helman family lived in a rural home on the outskirts of Badger Pocket. This is a small city five miles southeast of Ellensburg and

fifteen miles north of Yakima. The town is near the end of a small valley surrounded by large mountains.

At 3:00 p.m. on January 2, 1941, Jackie was in his backyard playing with a BB gun he had received as a Christmas present. He told his family that he had seen a pheasant and was going after it. This was the last they saw of the boy that day. The parents looked for him shortly after he made his statement, but he had vanished. His stepfather took a lantern and started to search the area around the home and the hills until his light went out. A call was made for local volunteer searchers, and the local sheri was contacted.

Almost fifty searchers followed Squaw Creek through the mountains thinking they were following a smeared track. A January 3, 1941, article in the Ellensburg Daily Record described what searchers were following: “His feet dragged through the snow and the tracks wobbled from side to side.” When I read this description, it reminded me of someone being dragged. Searchers never mentioned any tracks belonging to Jackie’s two dogs and puppy that left with him. They also stated that they had problems following his trail, as they would lose it when the tracks left the snow.

Early on January 3, searchers made an amazing discovery as is stated in the same newspaper cited above: “Curled up in the snow under a greasewood tree on Squaw Creek, nearly eight miles away from his Badger Pocket home, little six-year-old Jackie Helman was found shortly after midnight last night by searchers who had followed his tracks for hours over the southeast rim of the valley.” The article stated that Jackie was asleep and curled up with his puppy. He had taken o his coat and put it around his dog. The searchers stated his body was so warm that it had melted the snow around his body. Jackie was not able to walk and was carried on horseback back to his home.

The article never stated what happened to the BB gun.

Summary

This is a classic story of a disappearance with the same elements that have been described dozens of times in past books. In Robert Koester’s book, Lost Person Behavior, he states that a four- to six-year- old child will be found in mountain terrain within 2.3 miles or less. Jackie was found eight miles away, and from the statements in the paper, he had walked up and over the rim in the valley. Many of my stories describe children who disappear with their dog. Jackie took three. Even though

it was a frigid January night, Jackie was so warm that he removed his coat and then his body heat melted the snow around the body. Many of my cases indicate the child is found with a fever, thus high body heat. There was no mention of a fever in this case, but obviously his body was hot.

Jackie allegedly covered eight mountain miles uphill in less than nine hours, a phenomenal pace for an in-shape adult.

Ezra Simmons, 30 Years

Frances Desautel, 55 Years

Missing: December 16, 1941, Nespelem

Hunter* Cluster Zone* Weather* Double Disappearance

Readers often ask how often a person who has strong religious a iliations disappears. Anything about religion is rarely mentioned in law enforcement or search and rescue reports. I can occasionally find something in related news articles. In this incident, the religious side of the individual was front and center.

Ezra Simmons had a degree of notoriety when in November of 1941 that he purchased a home and church on Martin Road in Nespelem. The purchase made the local paper. Simmons made friends with the local community almost instantly. One of his followers was Frances Desauntel, a lifelong outdoorsman who lived his entire life in the rural areas of the mountains in Nespelem. He knew the region like you know your backyard.

On December 16, 1941, Frances and Ezra decided to cut some logs up for firewood. They drove into the woods and established a camp. There were 18 inches of snow where the men were working. The plan was to cut some wood, go into the forest, and kill a deer.

Just before noon, the men left camp with their rifles and decided to hunt in di erent areas. Each went with a sandwich. The men did not return by dark, and the community raised the alarm.

The wood camp was in a desolate and wild area north of Nespelem called Stepstone. This area had no homes and was known for its wildlife and thick forests.

Friends and family called the Colville Indian Agency and asked for assistance forming a search party. Almost immediately, dozens of

community members entered the woods and started to search for the preacher and his follower. After a week of intensive searching, a call was made to Adrian resident Joe Hodgens to bring his sheep dogs to assist in the SAR. The dogs were known to dig deep in the snow and find animals and items that many canines would miss. SAR o icials had stated that the ground in the camp area had been searched "minutely," and nothing had been found.

On December 31, the group searching for the men decided to terminate the e ort. The snow was falling, it was deep and cold, and the region had been extensively covered.

On April 12, 1942, the following article appeared in the April 12, 1942 edition of the Spokesman-Review, "A reward of $300 has been o ered by the parents of Ezra Simmons, Indian preacher, who with Frances Desautel was lost in the woods somewhere north of Nespelem last December, for the finding of his body. The snow is gone in that region now, and a party of 20 Indians started searching this week."

All e orts to locate Simmons and Desautel failed. They were not found.

It is highly unusual to have two hunters vanish in the same area on the same hunt. If you add to the equation that Desauntel knew this area intimately, the disappearance becomes more mysterious.

Lars Fjeld

Missing: October 19, 1945, Clayton Age at Disappearance: 89 years Area Previously Searched* Water* Ghosts* Missing Clothing

When I first read this case, I was initially stunned as it included sightings I had never heard about from someone who vanished.

Lar's Fjeld was from Norway and was a retired 89-year-old living in a cabin alone just north of Clayton near Loon Lake. He had a neighbor he spoke with regularly, but generally, he kept to himself.

Per his neighbor, Ralph Krick, Lars disappeared from his cabin on the evening of October 19, 1945. The neighbors contacted law enforcement, and a large contingent searched the ground around his home. The SAR lasted for three days and found nothing.

Neighbors and friends of Lars continued on their own to find the Norwegian, and one found him. This Colville Examiner article of November 3, 1945, had these details, "Missing from his cabin near Clayton since the evening of October 19, the body of Lars Fjeld was

found in a gulley, concealed by some brush and logs, Monday afternoon by Mrs., Jesse Lynch of Clayton., who was a member of a searching party of four residents in the neighborhood. He was clad only in a shirt and socks." Later in the same article, "When last seen by Ralph Krick, a neighbor, Fjeld had complained that he was "seeing ghosts all the time."

In the 8000+ missing person reports and articles I have researched, I have never read of a missing person claiming they had seen ghosts before they disappeared.

The coroner came to the scene and stated there were scrapes on the body, and it was his feeling that Lars "probably" died of exposure. The coroner also stated that a search of Lars cabin found $1817, so there was no crime involved in his disappearance.

Whatever happened to Lars either took him from his cabin in the middle of the night or scared him so badly in the middle of the night that it caused him to run out without dressing. Why not run to the neighbor's home if he was that scarred? Could Lars misinterpret what he was seeing, and in actuality, he was being visited by aliens?

This is an alarming case.

joe Blackburn

Missing: 11/01/46, Goose Prairie, WA

Age at disappearance: 34 years

Cluster Zone* Hunter* Weather* Lack of Tracks

This is a story that defies logic. It involves a person that knew the forest, its animals and associated wildlife, the dangers, and the topography. This disappearance is puzzling.

The location of this incident is Goose Prairie just east of Mount Rainier National Park. Mount Rainier has been classified as a cluster zone of missing people who fit the profile we've established.

Joe Blackburn was a forest guide that worked the area around his home in Goose Prairie, Washington. He was not only a guide; he was also known as a trapper and hunter who was one of the most knowledgeable men in this part of the state when dealing with the outdoors.

Joe was an outfitter for people who were hunters and wanted the outdoor experience. On October 31, hunter Blake Lowry, was due back at Joe's ranch to drop o a horse he'd rented. When he didn't arrive, Joe, who knew where Lowry was hunting, left on his own horse to bring the hunter back safely. Joe left his wife and five-month-old baby at home and rode o with a warm thermos of co ee and no food. He did not expect to be gone overnight.

When Joe didn't return the following morning, his wife called the sheri and reported her husband as missing. The sheri was able to get the Naches Ranger District involved in the hunt for the packer. The search was started immediately.

Joe's wife explained the area where the hunter had told Lowry to hunt. It was an area just west of their home in thick woods. On November 3, a very unusual event happened. Joe's horse arrived back at his residence. The horse was bareback and seemed to have a sore leg or foot. The rangers were now confining their search in a 320- acre parcel west of the residence. On November 4, searchers found Joe's saddle on the ground, along with the bridle and a few other personal items. They tried to follow some blurred-out tracks in the snow but couldn't track them.

The search to find Joe was terminated on November 6. It is safe to say that everyone involved in the e ort to locate the guide was completely ba led. Joe knew the exact path from where the saddle and bridle were located. There were no tracks from that location back to his residence other than the horse's. Even more confusing is the fact that the hunter Joe was searching for made it out to a road near the end of the search.

The Cascade Range from southern Oregon all the way through to British Columbia has an enormous amount of missing people. Joe Blackburn was never found.

If there was one person in the world that would never get lost on this property, that would understand the conditions present and was an expert hunter, it was Joe Blackburn. He left to take a leisurely ride out to 320 acres near his house. That leisurely ride turned into a death ride. I cannot develop a good theory on what happened.

The Disappearance of A U.S. Marine Curtis Commando R5C

Missing 12/10/1946, Mount Rainier National Park 32 Soldiers Missing

On December 10, 1946, six United States Marine Curtis Commando

R5C Transport planes sat on the tarmac at El Toro Marine Base in San Diego, California. They were being loaded with 200 soldiers and being transferred to Sandpoint Naval Air Station in Seattle, a six and a half hour flight. The planes were considered the workhorse twin engines of this branch of the military. They could fly as high as 24,500 feet, but the rear area where passengers would sit was not pressurized, and there was no oxygen. The flight protocol called for the transport to fly at 9,000 feet while carrying people.

The six planes left in a staggered procession at 10:36 a.m. local time. They flew north up the western coast of the United States. The formation arrived in southwestern Washington to heavy wind, snow, and freezing conditions. Four of the planes turned and went back to Portland and landed, two continued north.

US Marine Curtis Commando R5C

One of the R5C's was piloted by Major Robert Reilly. At 4:13 p.m. he contacted Toledo, Washing-ton air tra ic controller reporting he was getting ice on his wings and was asking for permission to increase his altitude to get over the turbulence and clouds. He estimated his position as 30 miles south of ATC. He was supposed to contact the controller again once he reached his new altitude, he never did. The last plane continued to fly on and did land in Seattle safely.

There were notes in the file that Everett, Washington ATC should have been able to receive Reilly's transmissions by 4:30 p.m., but they heard nothing. The plane had enough fuel to fly for 10 hours, but military o icials were getting concerned when the plane didn't land on its scheduled time.

On December 11, 1946, the world of the military in the Pacific Northwest was put on high alert. Nearly every branch of the service was brought into play to look for the Marine Transport. The issue at that point is that the weather in this part of Washington was horrific. The same wind, snow, and freezing rain that buffeted the region the night before, continued. By the end of the day, the residents throughout Washington knew a military plane was lost, and the public was asked to help find it.

Rangers at Mount Rainier National Park had reported hearing what they thought was an airplane in the area at around 4:15 p.m. Even though nothing distinct was heard, quietly some of the Rangers believed the transport had crashed into the side of their gigantic

mountain.

Nearly every branch of the military was making some e ort to find the missing plane. For the 5 days following the last transmission by Captain Reilly, this area of Washington was pounded by one of the most significant storms in years. The headlines in the December 13, 1946, edition of the Harrisburg Telegraph read, “Storms Prevent Search for 32 on Missing Plane.”

The search for 32 brave servicemen continued for months, then slowly came o the front page. It wasn’t until a July 25 article in the Daily Capital had these facts that shook the nation, “National Park, A tattered fragment of a marine’s uniform, a weathered piece of a serviceman’s health record and a few bits of wreckage ended last night the 7-month mystery over the fate of a marine transport plane which disappeared with 32 men aboard. Members of a party of eight Rainier National Park Rangers found bits of evidence high up near the 10,000 foot level of Mount Rainier’s treacherous South Tahoma Glacier.” There were other comments from the park and the military that they had found some of the wreckage of the doomed transport. Later in the same quoted article, “Captain A. O. Rule commander of the Sandpoint Naval Air Station said the rangers reports indicated that the plane exploded, scattering wreckage and personnel over a wide area.”

The park service continued a cautious approach on this part of the mountain. There was not any significant news on the incident until this August 24, 1947, article in the St. Louis Dispatch, “The bodies of all 32 Marines who died in the crash of transport on Mount Rainier last December 10 have been found on Tahoma Glacier, the Navy announced today. Twenty-one bodies were found by two National Park Rangers and a Navy man who braved the treacherous ice conditions and caroming rocks on a survey exploration yesterday. The other eleven bodies were found last Monday. But we still don’t know if we can remove the bodies.”

The Army’s Mountain Division squad was consulted on the possibility of bringing back the Marines. It was determined that it would take dozens of climbers over 2 weeks to recover the bodies. It was reported that the location of the bodies made a recovery dangerous from falling rocks and avalanches. This August 28, 1947, article in the Reading Eagle explained the cir-cumstances found by rescuers, “Attempts to recover the bodies of 32 Marines killed in the crash of a transport plane on the South Tahoma Glacier of Mt. Rainier was abandoned today. The 13th Naval district said the bodies will be left undisturbed amid the wreckage of the plane.” What happened to the military

adage, no man left behind? Why was the Navy making a decision about Marines bodies? I don't think I have ever read about one branch of the military making the de-cision about bodies of another branch.

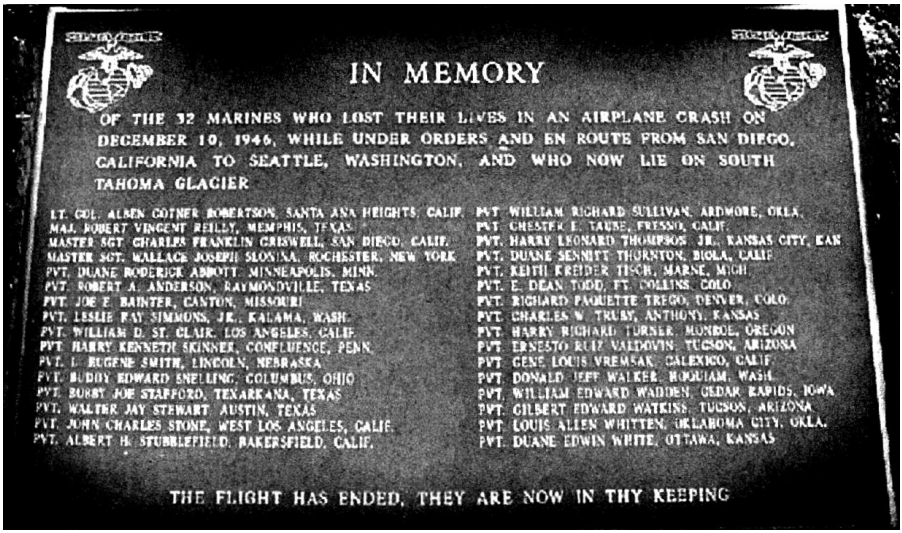
The families of the missing soldiers held a ceremony on the side of the mountain that was organized by the military and NPS. Through a joint decision between the NPS and the Marines, 2,000 acres of the glacier was allocated as a memorial zone with no one allowed to travel through it.

There was again a lengthy span of time with nobody saying anything about the crash site. In June of 1982, a climber found a strange piece of crash material on the mountain and brought the incident back into the spotlight. The wreckage was found in Tahoma Creek and confirmed by the Marines as belonging to the transport. The Marines did say that they meet on the glacier annually to remember the crash site. The park service stated that they were working with family members to "quietly reopen the site."

The fact that not one soldier's body was ever recovered from Mount Rainier seems utterly contrary to the military motto of leaving nobody behind; I still can't get past that. The one location where our federal government could have total domain and control over a crash site would be a national park because of its restrictive and patrolled environment. The best that I can research, there was no attempt to understand if the plane had a mechanical failure or why Everett was not able to hear any of the transports broadcasts post speaking with Toledo.

Regarding the one article that stated the R5C blew up, I could not find any evidence this happened. Under the press releases and statement by the military and park o icials, the plane hit a cli on the side of Rainier and fell anywhere from 3,000-7,000 feet to the glacier below. It does seem ironic that the plane crashed at the start of one of the worst storms to hit Washington in years and continued for 5 days dropping up to 5 feet of snow in the park. Nobody even had a peek of the crash site for almost a week.

One of the research practices that I try to do regularly is to read the periphery news for the region around the item I am writing about. In this incident, I was skimming articles for Seattle and the Mount Rainier area for late 1946 up until the plane was found in July of 1947. What I found could not be made up, it's too strange.


IN MEMORY
OF THE 32 MARINES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN AN AIRPLANE CRASH ON DECEMBER 10, 1946, WHILE UNDER ORDERS AND EN ROUTE FROM SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA TO SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, AND WHO NOW LIE ON SOUTH TAHOMA GLACIER
LT. COL. ALBEN COTNER ROBERTSON, SANTA ANA HEIGHTS, CALIF.
MAJ. ROBERT VINCENT REILLY, MEMPHIS, TEXAS
MASTER SGT. CHARLES FRANKLIN CRISWELL, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
MASTER SGT. WALLACE JOSEPH SLOSINA, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
PVT. DUANE RODERICK ABBOTT, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
PVT. ROBERT A. ANDERSON, RAYMONDVILLE, TEXAS
PVT. JOE E. BAINTER, CANTON, MISSOURI
PVT. LESLIE RAY SIMMONS, JR., KALAMA, WASH.
PVT. WILLIAM D. ST. CLAIR, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
PVT. HARRY KENNETH SKINNER, CONFLUENCE, PENN.
PVT. L. EUGENE SMITH, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
PVT. BUDDY EDWARD SNELLING, COLUMBUS, OHIO
PVT. BOBBY JOE STAFFORD, TEXARKANA, TEXAS
PVT. WALTER JAY STEWART, AUSTIN, TEXAS
PVT. JOHN CHARLES STONE, WEST LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
PVT. ALBERT H. STUBBLEFIELD, BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.
PVT. WILLIAM RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARDMORE, OKLA.
PVT. CHESTER E. TAUNE, FRESNO, CALIF.
PVT. HARRY LEONARD THOMPSON, JR., KANSAS CITY, KAN.
PVT. DUANE SENNETT THORNTON, BIGLA, CALIF.
PVT. KEITH FREIDER TISCH, MARNE, MICH.
PVT. E. DEAN TODD, FT. COLLINS, COLO.
PVT. RICHARD PAQUETTE TREGO, DENVER, COLO.
PVT. CHARLES W. TRUBY, ANTHONY, KANSAS
PVT. HARRY RICHARD TURNER, MONROE, OREGON
PVT. ERNESTO RUIZ VALDOVIN, TUCSON, ARIZONA
PVT. GENE LOUIS VREMSAK, CALEXICO, CALIF.
PVT. DONALD JEFF WALKER, ROQUIAM, WASH.
PVT. WILLIAM EDWARD WADDEN, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
PVT. GILBERT EDWARD WATKINS, TUCSON, ARIZONA
PVT. LOUIS ALLEN WHITTEN, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.
PVT. DUANE EDWIN WHITE, OTTAWA, KANSAS
THE FLIGHT HAS ENDED, THEY ARE NOW IN THY KEEPING

Mount Rainier Marine Memorial

Here we go down the rat hole...

The headlines of the June 29, 1947, article in the Orlando Evening Star, “Flying Pie-Pans Hit 1200 MPH.” Here is the article, “Army and CAA spokes men expressed skepticism today over a report of nine mysterious objects-big as airplanes-whistling over western Washington at 1,200 miles per hour. Kenneth Arnold, a flying Boise, Idaho businessman who reported seeing them, clung, however to his story of the shiny, flat object, each as big as a DC-4 passenger plane racing over Washington’s Cascade mountains with a peculiar weaving motion “like the tail of a kite.” Later in the same article is this, “He said he was flying east at 2:59 p.m., two days ago toward Mount Rainier when they appeared directly in front of him 25-30 miles away at 10,000 feet. By his plane’s clock, he timed them at 1:43 minutes for 47 miles from Mt. Rainier to Mt. Adams. Arnold said adding that he later figured by triangulation that their speed was 1200 miles per hour.” Another article was posted August 7, 1947, in the Montana Standard that related to Arnold’s sighting, “Kenneth Arnold, Boise flying salesman who first saw the flying discs, said here (Boise) Wednesday he has been requested by Army intelligence o icers at McChord Field, Washington not to discuss his recent trip to Tacoma. Arnold went to Tacoma to check on a story told by H.A. Rahl and Fred L. Chrisman of that city. The two men said their harbor patrol boat had been damaged by a disc-like object. Captain E.J. Smith, United Airlines who saw the discs on July 4, shortly after he took o from

Boise for Seattle, talked to Arnold, Smith also was requested by intelligence o icers to refer questions to them." Therein started the modern age of the Unidentified Flying Saucer. There were no other credible reported sightings of discs until Ken Arnold saw his nine craft over Mount Rainier. Is it mere coincidence that the sighting was made at a time when our military was actively looking for the Marine transport in the exact location of the observation?

I've lived in this world for too many years and have encountered countless coincidences that cannot be by mere chance. The sighting by Mr. Arnold is credible. Military o icers at the time didn't believe him because the only craft that can go as fast as he reported were missiles. If you don't have a background to understand capabilities of other propulsion systems, it's hard to view Ken's report as credible. My guess is that there were many other sightings by private pilots of unusual craft before the Mount Rainier incident, but they were embarrassed to report it and didn't want to be ridiculed, yeah, we live in a cruel world.

I know I will never look at Mount Rainier the same way. When I'm in its presence, I'll send up a private prayer to the 32 servicemen who are permanently entombed on the mountain. I can't say that I agree with the decision to leave them there, but then again, I don't know if we were ever given all the facts.

Ensign Gaston Mayes, 22 Years Old

Lt. Benjamin Vreeland, 25 Years Old

Missing: March 11, 1949, 2 pm, Black Lake, East of Carnation

Weather* Double Disappearance

Ensign Gaston Mayes graduated July 19, 1947, from the Pensacola Flight Academy for the Unit-ed States Navy. Benjamin Vreeland was from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Mayes from Clinton, Tennessee.

The events of this disappearance were explained in this August 2, 1959 article in the Akron Beacon Journal, "On the morning of March 11, 1949, at 10 am, Ensign Gaston Mayes and Lt. Benjamin Vreeland climbed into an SNJ-5, a small training plane at Sand Point and roared across Lake Washington toward the Cascades. Both were newly assigned to Sand Point."

"At breakfast that morning, a Navy nurse had remarked to Mayes that she was planning a trip across Snoqualmie Pass and wondered if there

was much snow on the highway."

"Til be going up that way this morning, and I'll take a look for you.", Mayes said. The Weyerhauser Timber Company has an operation in North Bend. At 11:30 that morning, several loggers saw a plane circling the area at a saw filers shack at Black Lake. It was apparent the aircraft was in trouble. One man saw the prop turning slowly, then not at all. The plane glided from sight and was sure it crashed. ' The loggers never saw the plane hit the water. At 2 pm that afternoon, the Boeing Airport air tra ic control heard a faint radio transmission on 3105 Kilocycles, "Navy 90568-calling Sand Point." There were no further transmissions. The plane never returned to Sand Point Naval Air Station. The distance from Sand Point to Black Lake is approximately 20 air miles.

Before I go deeper into this story, I must ensure the reader understands the importance of the 2 pm transmission that Boeing Field heard. The logger was confident the plane crashed, but they never saw it hit the lake they were working at. One hundred and fifty minutes after the logger made their observation, the radio transmission was heard by Boeing. That transmission means the plane was not in the water. There is no doubt that it crashed, but where?

Ensign Gaston Mayes (L) Lt. Benjamin Vreeland (R)

The Navy immediately started search and rescue protocol when the

trainer did not return. On the afternoon of the disappearance, the Navy sent seventeen planes up into the area they believed the trainer was flying. They found nothing.

On March 12, a heavy overcast blew into Washington, and no planes could search anywhere in the state.

Once the clouds cleared, the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Washington Fish and Game were looking for the trainer. They did find a ranger in the area of Black Lake who said that on March 11, he saw the color of the lake change color, but he had no idea why.

There was a massive week-long search for the aircraft, and they obtained only minimal statements from witnesses. It was apparent from the beginning the Navy wanted to focus on Black Lake.

The attitude toward recovering bodies in the military has changed drastically since 1949. There were some divers put into the lake, but they located nothing. In subsequent years, there were more recovery e orts. It was claimed that aircraft plywood, a piece of a seat belt, and antenna wire were recovered from the water at Black Lake—no motors, no fuselage, nothing significant.

The disappearance of Ensign Gaston Mayes hit his family as hard as any missing person case I have ever researched. O.C. Mayes was the father, and Nora was his mother. They came out to Washington and started their search for their son. They drove logging roads and posted flyers with a $2000 reward for finding their boy. This was not a casual e ort, and this family put everything into their own SAR during the months they could get into the area.

O.C. died three years after his son disappeared, and Nora became more determined to find Gaston. She went into logging camps, campsites, trailheads, and ranger stations; everywhere you could imagine she would search, she did. Sometimes Gaston's brother would accompany his mom on her journeys into some of the most isolated areas of the Cascades.

In 1983 Nora Died. The Navy had a ceremony at Black Lake, listing it as the resting place of Mayes and Vreeland.

In a May 8, 2023 article in the Seattle Weekly, they had an article about the disappearance of the SNJ- 5. The report explained that a timber company still owns the property surrounding Black Lake, and access is restricted. The company did allow a Maritime Archaeological Company to use side-scan radar over the lake to look for any craft.

The search found nothing. I have been on boats utilizing side-scan and have viewed the scan results. These devices are the most accurate tools to find anything in the water.

In 2020 there was one more search of Black Lake. A volunteer group got three magnetometer readings at di erent locations on the lake. A multitude of reasons can cause a magnetometer reading. If the side scan couldn't find an aircraft in the lake, I doubt it is there.

Black Lake is eight miles east of Carnation. This is a tiny lake surrounded by deep forests, even today. I do not believe that the trainer crashed in Black Lake. There is no witness to the plane crashing anywhere. There is one transmission at 2 pm the afternoon of the disappearance of that plane calling Sand Point. Where are Mayes and Vreeland?

Daryl Webley

Missing: 04/30/49, 4:00 p.m., Colville, WA

Age at disappearance: 2

Missing Clothing* Weather* Previously Searched

The Webley family lived in a small house on the far outskirts of Colville, Washington. The city sits just twenty miles west of the Idaho border.

On April 30, 1949, Daryl Webley was playing in the yard outside his home at approximately 4:00 p.m. Somehow his parents lost track of him and he disappeared. The parents initially searched the yard and surrounding area, yelling the boy's name and asking neighbors for help. He wasn't found.

The Webley's contacted local law enforcement, who then requested federal assistance. The Washington Highway Patrol responded along with local sheri s. The Stevens County sheri took command of the situation and placed a call to Spokane for canines from the Coast Guard.

Throughout the first night, searchers scoured everything within two miles of the residence, finding nothing of value. At 5:30 the following morning, the canines arrived and were given a whi of Daryl's scent from his clothing. The dogs took o at a slow run and led searchers to a ravine approximately one mile from the residence. At this first location, they found the boy's cap, his pants, and one of his shoes.

Approximately thirty minutes later, and further up the canyon, the searchers found the boy. A May 2, 1949, article in the Lewiston Tribune reported: “The boy, Daryl Webley, was almost nude and badly scratched when the dog led rescuers to him. He was cold and wet after his 14-hour experience, during which rain fell and the temperature dropped to 35 degrees.” Daryl was taken to a local doctor and found to have a case of mild exposure.

Case Summary

This is an unusual case for several reasons:

(1) Many cases in this book reveal that canines usually do not work in these situations, but

they did in this case. I can’t explain why they tracked the scent this time. Maybe it was that the dogs were not from the area or were trained di erently.

(2) It was a cold night with bad weather; nobody removes clothing when it’s moderately cold.

(3) Small children take the path of least resistance. The fact that this little boy had

severe scratches on his body doesn’t make sense. A child of two years isn’t running at high speed through the brush; he is moving slowly to ensure he won’t get hurt. (4) Before the dogs arrived, over two hundred people unsuccessfully searched the

area where Daryl was later found. It doesn’t make sense.
Donald McDonald

Missing: 12/15/49, Blacksnake Ridge, Walla Walla, WA Age at disappearance: 17 years

Point of Separation* Weather* Hunter* Lack of Tracks

Hunting elk in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington in the middle of winter is not an easy task, but this is what Jack Farquharson (age twenty-one) and his friend Donald McDonald decided to do in December 1949. Both men were raised in the greater Walla Walla area and had substantial hunting experience. Both guys were hunting a ridgeline called

Blacksnake Ridge. It was cold, and the weather was about to change drastically. Jack was leading the pair and spotted a nice-sized elk and shot it. The two boys started to track the wounded animal. Jack concentrated on tracking the blood and prints in the snow. He eventually found the dead animal and then turned to speak with Donald, but he was gone. Jack called Donald's name several times, but there was no answer. He walked back through their tracks, trying to retrace their path, but eventually lost them in the heavy snow.

Jack field dressed the elk and brought it back to the camp that he and Donald had established. The next two days, Jack searched for his friend without finding any trace of him. On Saturday morning, half frozen, Jack Farquharson stumbled into the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office and reported his hunting partner missing. Jack was in brutal condition and a physician who examined him made a statement that he may lose his feet. The county sheriff, local ranchers, friends, and relatives searched for a week for Donald but couldn't locate the hunter. They had an Alaskan Husky dog team assist as the searchers were faced with six-foot snow drifts. They didn't find his rifle or his clothes— not one item to confirm that Donald was anywhere in the Blacksnake Ridge area. Snowstorms had hit the area the day Donald went missing, and this hampered search efforts and the ability of trackers to follow a path. It seemed that there was little luck in finding Donald alive. There were a few old and abandoned cabins in the Blue Mountains that Donald may have utilized for shelter. Eventually all buildings were located and checked, but there was no evidence they had recently been occupied. The search for Donald was abandoned after one week of heavy storms.

In June 1950, there was another search for Donald. People felt that after the snow melted there would be a greater chance to recover his body. A three-day search led by Sheriff A. A. Shick produced nothing to confirm Donald was in the area.

It has now been over sixty years since Donald McDonald disappeared, and the reality of his disappearance is hard to understand. It is true that bodies rot and eventually go back to

the ground, but boots and rifles sometimes stay for decades, especially rifles. Nothing belonging to Donald McDonald has ever been found.

There was one report in January of 1951 where a Walla Walla youth stated he talked to a boy matching McDonalds description boarding a train in May of 1950. The boy stated he was “reasonably sure” it was the same boy. No confirmation was ever made by the sheriff. Law enforcement always has to track down these leads, they are normal, but 99% go nowhere and are just good citizens trying to help.

The one type of hunting that has the most disappearances is elk hunting. Watch our third documentary (Missing 411 The UFO Connection) for an up- close look at elk hunters. Residents thought the story about Donald McDonald was over. On October 4, 1955, deer hunters were hunting in the area where Donald disappeared and stumbled across a strange scene. They found a 30-06 rifle laying on the ground, parts of a human skeleton, boots, belt and personal belongings. The hunters knew of McDonald’s disappearance and traveled out of the mountains and contacted the sheriff.

Sheriff J.R. Cummins , coroner Leonard Dewitt and members of the McDonald family made positive identification of the items located as belonging to Donald. One hundred and twenty-five feet from the skeleton, the rifle was found partially under a tree. The coroner stated that he could not determine the cause of Donald’s death. In a very strange twist to the story, An October 20, 1955 article in the Spokane Chronicle made this statement, “The boy disappeared elk hunting in December, 1949, and the skeleton of an elk was found with the remains. However, sheriff deputies said a medical examination showed the animal had not been dead as long as McDonald.” This is a very unusual statement. It is highly unusual to find the full skeleton of a deer or elk, but to find it next to a dead body and to say that the elk had no relationship to the skeleton is bizarre.

Tommy Jenkins

Missing 5/04/1950-Noon, Fort Lewis, WA

Age at Disappearance: 2 or 3 years (discrepancy in reports)

Canine* Water*

Fort Lewis is just two miles southwest of Tacoma but has very wild regions, specifically for the training of its soldiers. The 33,000-acre fort that housed six thousand soldiers in 1950 sits on the southeast side of American Lake with Interstate Highway 5 bisecting the property. The region of the fort that borders the lake is still quite wild and undeveloped.

Tommy Jenkins lived on Fort Lewis with his father and mother in a non-commissioned housing area about fifteen hundred feet from American Lake. Reports vary on Tommy's age, stating anywhere between two and three years old.

On May 4, near noon, Tommy was outside playing with the neighbor's Irish setter named Lassie. One soldier reported he saw the boy and the dog playing at a gravel quarry not far from his residence; this was not confirmed. When Tommy didn't come home for lunch, authorities were called and a search initiated.

The commander of Fort Lewis pulled every available soldier to search for Tommy Jenkins. Over six thousand men and women covered every inch of the base looking for the small boy, focusing on the area near the gravel pit and the region near the beach and water; they found nothing. The commander put helicopters and planes into the air. They found nothing. Three di erent Blood-hounds were brought to the base and attempted to pick up Tommy's scent. The dogs found nothing.

On the third day of searching, and in an area previously searched numerous times, searchers heard sounds near the beach. The men fought their way through heavy brush to find Tommy and Lassie playing on the beach of American Lake, alive and well.

A May 8,1950, article in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix had the following about Tommy being found: "Major Artie N. Heape, Fort Lewis provost marshal, said Saturday that three-year-old Tommy Jenkins, who has been missing two days, has been found alive and well. He apparently had been kidnapped, Major Heape said, and returned to the point which he was picked up." Later in the same article, there is another quote from the Army o icial: "'No three-year-old boy could have survived two nights in the open with weather as we have had in the last 48 hours,' said Major Heape." During the time that Tommy had

been missing, temperatures were down to the low forties, and there was sporadic rainfall.

Sgt. William Jenkins attempted to question his son about his disappearance but didn't get clear answers. The boy did state he slept in areas where there were no homes. He stated that he had fallen in a creek with the dog, yet the boy and the dog were dry.

There were other statements made by Army o icials confirming that they did not believe that Tommy had been in the area where he had been found for the previous forty-eight hours. They also confirmed that the boy was in too good of physical condition to be out in the elements for the entire time he was missing.

The Independent Record of Helena, Montana, ran an article on May 6 about Tommy being found. Reporters attempted to question Mrs. Jenkins about Tommy and how he could be found in such phenomenal condition, and she stated, "I can't understand it, I can't understand it."

One major question is how did Tommy avoid the e orts of three highly trained canines for two days? Was he even at this site when the dogs were searching?

Joe Carter

Missing: 05/21/50-3:00 p.m., Mount St. Helens, WA Age at disappearance: 32 years

Mount St. Helens has a long history of unusual occurrences going back over a century. The last time the mountain made international headlines was on May 18, 1980, when it erupted. Fifty-seven people were killed during the eruption, including the innkeeper of the famous Spirit Lake Lodge. Mount St. Helens is classified as a United States National Monument and is under the direction of the National Park Service.

This is another case of a disappearance involving a man who should never have vanished. Joe Carter had gone with a group of friends to climb Mount St. Helens on May 21, 1950. The group had brought their skis with the intention of climbing a portion of the mountain and skiing down. Joe had gone with a group of twenty climbers and brought his camera. As the group reached the point of skiing, Joe told them he would go down the hill and around a small corner and take photos as the group passed him.

Joe was a smart man and not your average skier. He was an employee

of Boeing during the week and a member of the National Ski Patrol working at Milwaukee Bowl during the weekends. For readers who do not know, the National Ski Patrol has a high standard for acceptance. The testing is rigorous; you must be an outstanding skier with the ability to ski in control while pulling a three-hundred-pound toboggan and an injured party. Each National Ski Patrol member is dedicated to saving lives and treating injuries, and all have advanced first-aid training. Joe was well trained, a great skier, in terrific shape and knew the mountain's risks.

Joe had skied away from the main party and made a slight left-hand turn out of view. He set up to take the photos and somehow disappeared. People who later went to the spot found a discarded film box at the point where he had stopped. The location where the box was found is called "Dog's Head."

Skiers went around the corner and found that Joe was not there, and they continued down the mountain. The group believed that the National Ski Patrol member had gone on to the bottom and they would see him there. When the group reached the bottom, Joe never arrived, and they called for search and rescue (SAR).

One of the first SAR teams on Mount St. Helens looking for Joe was the Seattle Mountain Search and Rescue team with Dr. Otto Trott and Lee Stark. An August 1963 article in the Longview Washington Times had the following description of what searchers found on the mountain at the point where the film box was located: "From here, Carter evidently took o down the mountain in a wild death-defying dash, 'taking chances that no skier of his caliber would take, unless something was terribly wrong or he was being pursued,' says Lee, who was the first searcher to reach Carter's ski tracks. He jumped over two-three large crevasses and evidently was going like the devil. When Carter's tracks reached the precipitous sides of Ape Canyon, the searchers were amazed to see that Carter had been in such a hurry that he went right down the steep canyon walls. But they did not find him at the bottom of the canyon as they expected. 'We combed the canyon, one end to the other for five days.'"

There is no doubt that Joe Carter was acting in a very, very strange manner and skiing complete-ly outside the bounds of any sane mountaineer; it appears as though he was skiing for his life. There were never any other tracks that were noted in the snow other than Joe's ski tracks. If the perceived threat to Joe wasn't coming from the ground (no tracks), that only leaves the threat being in the air. A UFO?

In the same Longview Times article were the feelings expressed by searcher Lee while he was looking for Joe: “He said that every time he got cut o from the rest of the searchers during the long hunt, he got the feeling that ‘somebody was watching me.’”

There was a ten-day search for Joe Carter; he was never found. There were some discrepancies in stories written about the incident. Some accounts stated that Joe skied straight o the end of the cli , and others stated that the ski tracks stopped at the cli and footprints were found going over the end. Neither scenario makes any sense.

Joe did have medical issues: he was diabetic and did not have insulin with him the day he vanished. He got separated from his group above the timberline and then got out of their view. He was a highly trained, advanced skier who should never have suffered the fate he did.

Summary

Mount St. Helens has history as a location of many strange stories and incidents. I won’t mention them all here. Some of the people involved in the search for Joe Carter mentioned that they felt strange while they were looking for the man, an unusual statement for searchers to make. It is a bit of a coincidence that Joe was the designated photographer. Many photographers have vanished in the woods of North America. If Joe was injured and fell into the canyon, searchers should’ve found his camera, skis, poles, etc. Nothing was found. The statement that Joe was making a “death defying” run down the slopes is an interesting theory that should be taken seriously. Joe was not erratic; in fact, he was very stable. We must ask ourselves: What would cause you or me to ski straight down the side of a snow-covered volcano, knowing that whatever is at the bottom can’t be as scary as what’s behind us?

The fact that nothing was found in the canyon seems like an impossibility. Joe’s disappearance transpired after he separated from the main group and was out of sight, an element we have described in our work as “Point of Separation.” It is at those moments that something happens. It is almost as though something was watching and waiting.

In my documentary, Missing 411 The UFO Connection, we covered a story just west of Mount St. Helens about a group of employees of Weyerhauser who were on a hillside planting trees. They observed a UFO come up their canyon. The UFO flew over a group of elk, isolated one and then picked it up and flew o with it. The men at the time

made the statement that they feared it may come back for one of them.

Marcella Ramiskey

Missing 7/01/50-5 p.m., Mount Rainier National Park, WA

Age at Disappearance: 4 years

Mrs. Kay Ramiskey and her daughter, Marcella age four, took a trip from their Fairfax, Washington, home to Chenuis Falls for a picnic inside Mount Rainier National Park. At approximately 5 p.m., Marcella vanished. Mrs. Ramiskey notified National Park authorities, and a search was immediately commenced.

The park service committed fifty rangers to the search for Marcella along with two Bloodhounds. The canines were given Marcella's scent, yet they could never track her. The location where Marcella vanished is approximately two miles from the base of Mount Rainier and is located on the northwest side of the park.

The park service received volunteer assistance from many people in the area of Chenuis Falls. At 9 a.m. the day following Marcella's disappearance, Jack and Donald Noel were walking uphill from the falls looking for the girl when they happened to see a small bundle on the ground. A July 4, 1950, article in the Kingsport News had the following details: "A blonde four-year-old youngster was found sitting high on the slopes of Mount Rainier Monday morning after wandering 16 hours in the wilderness." Where the national park searchers and Bloodhounds failed, two volunteers find her on the slopes of the mountain— unreal. Later in the same article it describes the girl's condition: "The child's legs bore long scratches from crawling through underbrush." People who have read my other Missing 411 books will recognize that these types of scratches are routinely found on kids that go missing in mountain settings. A di erent article dated July 4, 1950, in the Nevada Journal tells an entirely di erent story: "A ranger said the girl, Marcella Ramiskey, was in good condition with no visible cuts or abrasions but was taken to a doctor's o ice in Buckley for observation." That is correct— an entirely di erent story was relayed to the public by a national park ranger. It sounds like they understand the importance and relevance of the cuts and abrasions and want to control the message.

Later in the Kingsport News article, there is a section about the girl's clothing and a statement from her mother: "Her mother said the tot

had apparently gone through her regular nightly routine regardless of the discomforting circumstances. Her dress was on backward and the laces on her shoes were crossed every which way." People need to understand that on Mount Rainier during a July night, temperatures can easily get down into the high thirties and low forties; I doubt the girl is going to remove her clothes and then put them back on. Again, this is an attempt to explain the unexplainable.

Summary

Several aspects of this story may not seem outwardly unusual if you haven't read my other books. The girl walked over two miles directly upward toward the top of Mount Rainier. The vast majority of missing children walk downhill when lost, not uphill. It's apparent from the description given by the mother that somehow, somewhere, the clothes and shoes came o Marcella, another common fact among many children who vanish. Children who go missing in the wilds of North America are often found with serious scratches, abrasions and gashes, but apparently the park service didn't want us to know this.

As Marcella walked further uphill away from her mother, the temperature dropped, the air became thinner, and survivability became more di icult. Mrs. Ramiskey was very lucky to get her daughter back alive.

Many readers know that I am also an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network, the largest group of trained UFO investigators in the world. It is common to find people claiming abduction that their clothes are on backwards when found and their shoes are tied awkwardly. I am not insinuating anything by this statement, just saying that the coincidences are unusual.

Gunnar Peterson

Missing 08/06/50-PM, Churchill Mountain, Colville National Forest, WA

Age at Disappearance: 65 years

Berry Picker* Canines* Previously Searched

The location of this disappearance is significant. Churchill Mountain is just twenty miles north of Colville and its Indian reservation, a location of high strangeness that covers many, many years. The location where Gunnar disappeared is just two miles south of the Canadian border.

Gunnar Peterson was with family members picking huckleberries on the 4,800-foot-tall mountain. The region is lush with thick forests and hundreds of small bodies of water. Gunnar vanished while just feet away from family members. They searched and yelled for the man for hours but never received an answer. The Peterson family called the Stevens County sheri .

Sheri Beryl Warren led the search for Gunnar and enlisted the assistance of local residents, law enforcement o icers, forest service personnel, and the local military. The family described Gunnar as being five feet, eight inches tall and weighing one hundred and fifty pounds. He was wearing overalls.

Sheri Warren summoned Bloodhounds from eastern Washington and Idaho and had them join the search the second and third day. The canines could never pick up Gunnar's scent and never seemed to figure out the direction he may have been traveling.

On the tenth day of the search, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Graves of Tacoma —the daughter of Gunnar and her husband—were searching five miles from Churchill Mountain when they found him. The discovery of Gunnar is described in the August 18, 1950, Lewiston Morning News'. "Mrs. Graves said her father appeared in good health. She said he had lived on berries and had taken refuge in abandoned shacks during the nights. He could account only for eight of the ten days he had been missing and apparently had been knocked unconscious by a falling limb or rock."

Summary

The location of this disappearance immediately raised a flashing yellow light in my mind. The further I dug into Gunnar's disappearance, the stranger it got.

The people who disappear huckleberry picking are some of the most di icult cases, and I have no idea why. What could be the association of a man picking huckleberries in the woods and his subsequent disappearance?

In many of the disappearances I have chronicled over the years that fit our criteria, the people either cannot explain what happened or something occurred and they can't remember, as in Gunnar's case. Gunnar doesn't even remember how he might have been injured, that's how confused he was.

I think it's highly ironic that hundreds of people, forest service

aircraft, Bloodhounds, and eques-trians searched for Gunnar, and it was his daughter and her husband that found the lost man— is that coincidental?

This incident has other cases in close proximity.

Bobby Boatman

Missing: 10/14/51, Godman Springs, Walla Walla, WA

Age at disappearance: 14 years Point of Separation* Weather* Canines* Hunter

As you read the accounts depicting the facts behind the disappearance of Bobby Boatman, I want you to think about the disappearance of Donald McDonald. The facts behind each disappearance are remarkably similar. Even though they happened in di erent counties, both happened in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington and within two years of each other.

An October 16, 1951, article in the Walla Walla Bulletin stated: "Bobby left here Saturday morning with two older men and was last seen on a ridge Sunday morning near Godman Springs, 30 miles southeast of Day ton. His companions spent the day searching for him." Bobby was deer hunting.

The morning following Bobby's disappearance, his friends reported him missing. That first night snow started falling hard in the mountains.

Deputy sheri s, ranchers, and volunteers assisted in the search for Bobby. Articles stated that Les Larners was going to the mountains with his Alaskan Huskies to search for the boy. Authorities stated that they were optimistic they would find Bobby alive because of his background as a Boy Scout and his survival skills. The weather was so bad during this search that the October 19, 1951 article in the Eugene Register- Guard had this: " As much as 10 inches of snow had piled up in some areas when the search was cancelled. Visibility was limited to five feet at time." During breaks in the weather, the Civil Air Patrol had dispatched air support.

A seven-day search for Bobby was unsuccessful.

It was almost five years to the exact day since he disappeared that law enforcement had their first break in the Bobby Boatman disappearance. On October 9, 1956, hunters in the Blue Mountains found a rifle and a red cap. The items were found near Godman Springs by hunters Billy Watson, Robert Bailey, Albert Bailey, and Jess Black. The rifle was a .30-caliber Remington. Both items were turned over to the sheri . Sheri E. E. "Duke" Warwick took the rifle to a friend of the Boatman's, who confirmed the rifle was Bobby's. It was later confirmed that the red cap was also Bobby's. An October 17, 1956,

article in the Walla Walla Bulletin stated: “The red baseball cap of Boatman was discovered in a bush with the rifle nearby, as though he might have dropped both items and taken o running, the Watson party told Warwick. The covered portion of the cap was still identifiable as having been red.”

On October 12, 1956, Sheri Warwick took a team back into the area where Bobby’s rifle was found in an e ort to locate the body. An article in the October 20 Lewiston Morning Tribune reported the following: “Bones and clothing in the area believed to be those of a teenage hunter who vanished five years ago were found in the Blue Mountains Thursday under suspicious-stirring circumstances.” Sheri Warwick identified the remains as Bobby Boatman. The incredible part of the find is described next: “Deputy Sheri Herschel Bowman, who was at the scene, said evidence indicated the boy’s body had been placed under tree roots and covered with dirt, then later pulled from the shallow grave by animals.

The bones were partially covered with dirt and debris about 100 yards from where hunters found Boatman’s rifle and cap.” I want you now to remember in the Donald McDonald case, his Rifle was found partially under a tree. This was a very lucky find for the sheri and his men. If it weren’t for hunters coming forward with what they had found, the chances of Bobby ever being recovered would have been minimal. One of the last paragraphs in the article is probably one of the most disturbing statements by a law enforcement officer I have ever read: “Sheri Warwick said that on the basis of the evidence at hand, we don’t know if there was foul play in the case. We will look into the possibility.” This is disturbing because of other statements made by the sheri ’s o ice just three days earlier. On October 17, 1956, Deputy Sheri Billy Burton of Walla Walla County had explained to the media that in 1952 a knife and its sheath and a rope that Bobby Boatman used as a belt were found on a sandbar in Box Canyon. This little tidbit adds a lot to the investigation and should have been directly addressed as a major clue. If there wasn’t foul play, how did Bobby’s knife end up miles away on a river bar?

I could not find any article or report from the Walla Walla sheri or coroner indicating the cause of death for Bobby Boatman.

Summary

In thirty-plus years of being an investigator, detective, and researcher, and reading thousands of missing persons cases, I have never heard of anyone ever being buried under tree roots.

Hunters who found Bobby's cap and rifle said they believed it looked like they were dropped during Bobby's flight from something—something deadly. Bobby was killed and buried in a highly unique manner—under a tree. Tree roots o er a major barrier to anyone wanting to find the body or retrieve it. I don't think anyone in law enforcement would ever think of digging up trees to find a body. Over time tree roots will completely encase the deceased.

Bobby's knife, sheath, and rope belt were found in a creek bed a great distance from the body. Someone or something took the items o Bobby's waist and carried them from the scene and eventually left them near a creek. Animals would never take the knife and carry it any distance, it would take something with hands.

The fact is that this case does not add up to a calculated killing. If you are going to make the e ort of concealing the body by burying it under a tree, why not also bury the rifle and cap? Why would you leave the rifle and red cap lying in an area where they could easily be seen? Why would you take the knife, sheath, and rope and leave them in an area where they could be retrieved?

Bears and mountain lions would not take a knife and sheath and carry it to another location. Animals would leave everything where they found it. I have never heard of any animal burying anything under a tree stump.

The location of Bobby's body makes me greatly suspect that the body of Donald McDonald could be buried in a similar manner. They disappeared in too close of proximity to each other and the dates are too close to be ignored. If Donald was also buried under tree roots, it's understandable why his body has never been recovered.

Another similarity is that Bobby's knife and sheath were found in a creek bed. The last similarity between the Boatman and McDonald cases: both young men disappeared when they were on a ridgeline, as was reported by their friends. There are probably other similar cases in this area, I just haven't found them. The fact that Donald McDonald's rifle was also partially buried under a tree is truly a bizarre coincidence.

Joyce Abel

Missing 10/16/54-1:00 p.m., Okanogan, WA

Age at disappearance: 5 years

Water* Distance Traveled

This incident occurred on the perimeter of the Colville Indian Reservation, a location of high strangeness over the years. The exact location is stated as twelve miles south of Okanogan in a very rural location. One newspaper article stated that Joyce Abel disappeared from her grandmother's ranch, and another states the ranch belonged to her mom and dad. There is no conflict, however, in that this was a very rural ranch.

In the early afternoon of October 16, 1954, Joyce Abel somehow and for an unknown reason allegedly walked away from a rural location. The ranch can be better described as sixty miles northeast of Wenatchee Lake, a place that readers would know well from other narratives about missing people.

An October 18, 1954, article in the Reading Eagle had this description of Joyce's trip: "A hardy 5-year- old girl who sheri 's o icers said walked 20 miles in 20 hours through the wilds of north central Washington wandered safely into a ranch yard 50 miles north of here yesterday as an army of men sought a trace of her." The article clearly states that searchers could not find any trace of the girl, and yet she was able to wander aimlessly and find a ranch in the middle of nowhere. Hiking twenty miles in twenty hours across a wild landscape would be a huge feat for a healthy adult. The idea that a five-year-old girl could manage this mileage is mind-boggling.

There was some discrepancy in the distance that Joyce covered. A farmhand from the ranch where Joyce disappeared had been attempting to track the girl when she wandered into another farm. He stated it was his belief that she had traveled eight miles from point to point, meaning she traveled eight air miles, people who hike in the woods know that there are no straight trails. Animal paths and trails meander. People in search and rescue know that lost children don't walk in straight lines; they wander based on the landscape. Water hazards and grades and inclines all come into play on how the child moves forward.

There can be no argument that Joyce made a very long trip in a very short period of time. According to the book Lost Person Behavior by Robert Koester, a child between the ages of four and six should be found 95 percent of the time in a mountain setting within 3.7 miles or less from the point they were last seen. Joyce Abel's trip is beyond the realm of any search and rescue guidelines.

Search and rescue o icials should take note of these cases. The incidents involving young children traveling unreasonable distances are far outside the bounds of what is explained in SAR books. Should SAR o icials stick to standard guidelines, this risks children not being found.

John Davis

Missing 8/26/56, Burbank, WA Age at Disappearance: 72 years
Missing Clothing: Previously Searched

John Davis was a part-time ranch hand. He was first reported as missing on August 26, 1956. A search of Davis' employers ranch was initiated at that time. The search of the Hooper Sheep Ranch took two weeks and they were unable to find Davis.

A witness states that he saw a strange object in the field in January under a pile of snow. The wit-ness felt that what they saw was another sheep and ignored the object. The witness went back to the object that they observed and found it was the body of John Davis.

When John Davis' body was located, witnesses found something very strange. A February 19, 1957, article in the Walla Walla Union stated the following, "O icer said that Davis' clothes were in a pile near the body." Law enforcement o icials stated at the time that there was no evidence of foul play." The body was found on February 18, 1957.

It would be very interesting to interview law enforcement o icers at the scene of John Davis' body. I would like to understand how o icials believed that Davis' clothes came o his body? If law enforcement didn't believe anything suspicious was associated with a naked body in the middle of a field, I'd like to understand their thinking. I could not find any reports or articles that clarify this finding.

Jim Eaton

Missing: 11/26/56, Jim Creek, WA

Age at disappearance: 74 years

Weather* Point of Separation* Hunter

On Monday morning November 26, 1956, Jim Eaton and friend Frank Marker left Maryville, Washington and drove 15 miles to the northeast to Jim Creek, approximately six miles east of Arlington to go deer hunting. Something happened that day, and Jim vanished, what

happened next is described in the November 28, 1956, Nanaimo Daily News, “Sheri Bob Twitchell called in a party of 50 volunteers searching for Jim Eaton, about 74, of Marysville. Eaton has been missing since Monday when he became separated from a hunting partner.”

Deputy Don Fisher of the Snohomish County Sheri ’s O ice ran the search for Jim. Articles about the incident told of sub-freezing temperatures the night the hunter vanished followed by fog that inundated the search area. The sheri ’s o ice got assistance in the SAR from airmen from Paine Air Force Base, ground teams and air support were sent, then canceled due to weather. The fog and cold temperatures had the sheri calling o the search temporarily and then started it again the following day.

This was one of the shortest searches I’ve ever read about, two days. They never found anything belonging to Jim, and they never located him. The location of this incident is a bit unusual. This did not happen in the high mountains of Washington, but closer to the coast in small hills, a hard place to get lost.

Richard “Rickie” Craig

Missing 8/15/57-10am, 25 miles s/o Mt. Adams, WA Age at Disappearance: 5 years

Berry Picker* Canines* Missing Shoe* Lack of Memory

Richard aka Rickie Craig was with his parents picking huckleberries 25 miles south of Mt. Adams, Washington in an area near Trout Lake. This location is approximately 30 miles north of Hood River and the Columbia River. The location where the family was picking berries was near the 2500’ elevation.

On August 15 at 10am the family started to look for Rickie and couldn’t locate him. The Craig’s initially started to look for the boy by themselves and then went to the local Forest Service O ice and asked for assistance.

Elmer Craig was a school principle in Harrah, Washington and was on summer break when the family lost Richard. He was one of the main participants in the search for his son.

There were two full days of lengthy searches that included bloodhounds, law enforcement and volunteers. The total number of searchers rose to 600 by the second day. There were so many people

looking for Richard that the Forest Service closed the Trout Lake area to all Huckleberry pickers because they were getting in the way of the search e ort.

At 5:30am on the third day Ricky was missing, a logging crew came to assist the SAR on their day o . The crew was % of a mile o Trout Creek Road and over five miles from the point that Rickey was last seen when they found the young boy. A monumental archive search was made for specific details of Rickey's condition and little could be found. It was learned that the boy was missing one shoe and according to doctors that examined him later in the day, they were fascinated by the phenomenal condition he was in for being in the rugged wilderness for over two days, they couldn't believe it.

Rickey never could say what he did in the wild for the two days or how he got lost.

Lowell Linn

Missing 11/31/57-PM, Mount Rainier National Park, WA

Age at Disappearance: 23 years Intellectual* Cluster Zone* Point of

Separation* Weather

Lowell Linn had recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in engineering and wanted to work for one of the best aeronautic companies in the world. He inter-viewed with Boeing in Washington and was o ered employment. In May 1957, Lowell moved to Seattle.

Lowell always enjoyed the outdoors and the mountains. Just outside of Boeing's headquarters and within an hour's drive were some of the biggest mountains in North America. The new engineer quickly made friends, and in late November 1957, he and Harry Holcomb discussed driving to Mount Rainier, snowshoeing up the side of the mountain, and then skiing down. Their plans slowly came to fruition, and on November 31, the journey started.

Lowell and Harry started their snowshoeing at 7 a.m. at the 5,500-foot elevation at Paradise Inn. The men would utilize snowshoes and climb with the skis on their backs up to the 7,500-foot elevation, place the skis on their feet, and have a brisk journey back down on virgin snow.

The pair started together at the top, and Harry quickly made it to the halfway point. Harry stopped and waited for Linn at Panorama Point at the 6,500- foot level. When he didn't see Lowell, he started down again. When he reached the 5,500-foot elevation and arrived at the Paradise Inn, Holcomb turned around and still couldn't see Lowell. The weather at this time was cloudy, but there was no precipitation until the point that he arrived at the inn. As Holcomb waited, the snow started to fall harder and harder, and still Lowell had not arrived. Harry made the decision to contact NPS o icials.

The National Park Service faced a blistering snowstorm in the first days after Lowell vanished, and this was followed by heavy fog and mist. The search for Lowell lasted until December 2 and then was terminated. Searchers found nothing belonging to Lowell Linn; he had vanished and was never found.

Summary

I've read many articles on this event, and the majority appears to have

the facts incorrect. Many of the articles indicate that Lowell disappeared in a heavy snowstorm, which is wrong. A December 6, 1957, article in the Daily Chronicle stated the following: “Linn disappeared shortly before a blizzard engulfed the mountain and all hope of finding him alive was given up by Chief Ranger Al Rose after the storm dumped 48 inches of snow in the search area.” The fact is that Harry and Lowell didn’t use bad judgment: they were skiing in weather that was appropriate. They should’ve been o the mountain in plenty of time before the winter storm hit.

It seems highly unusual that searchers couldn’t find Lowell’s skis, boots, snowshoes, coat, etc., after the snow melted; that is, if he was there.

You are going to read about several cases inside of Mount Rainier National Park where visitors disappeared under inexplicable conditions, and nothing of them is ever found. The number of missing people that vanish without any trace seems illogical. Searchers should be finding something that belonged to the victim. It has been at least 65 years since Lowell disappeared and none of his property has ever been recovered.

David Adams

Missing 05/03/58-5:00 p.m., Tiger Mountain, Issaquah, WA Age at disappearance: 8 years Point of Separation* Canines

Issaquah is a small community approximately ten miles southeast from Seattle and fifty miles southwest of Wenatchee Lake. Just twenty miles east of the city is a thickly wooded forest area with hundreds of small

lakes and streams. The city of Issaquah has approximately thirty thousand residents with many more just outside its perimeter. One of those areas just to the southeast is a gorgeous 2,600-foot-high hill called Tiger Mountain. There are only a handful of roads that crisscross this area, and some of the mountain is still quite desolate. The area to the east of the mountain is very thick with lush woods and very few residents.

The Adams family had scouted much of Washington before deciding on Tiger Mountain as the location where they would build their dream house. In mid-April 1968, the Adams and their family of seven moved into their home. Mrs. Adams was a stay-at-home mom, and Donald Adams was a captain in the United States Air Force reserve unit assigned to McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma. Donald had just been called to active duty because of the seizure of the USS Pueblo.

David's family was part of the religious community of Latter-Day Saints. David made quick friends at church and at school. You could quickly recognize the four-year-old by his vibrant blue eyes against his dark hair. In the late afternoon of May 3, 1968, David was visiting the home of his friend, Kevin Bryce. The Bryce residence was also on Tiger Mountain, and the boys had become quick friends. It was about 5:00 p.m. when Mrs. Adams called the Bryce household and asked them to send David home for supper. Kevin walked David down one of the small roads on the mountain and crossed a bridge at 15-Mile Creek. David stated that he was going to take a shortcut on a trail through the mountains and come up behind his home. Kevin said good-bye and walked back home. He was the last person to ever see David Adams.

Fifteen minutes after Mrs. Adams had called the Bryce residence, she called back again and asked if David had left. Mrs. Bryce looked at Kevin and asked if David was walking home; he stated he was stunned that David hadn't yet arrived. Mrs. Adams called a church member and asked for help looking for David. He in turn rallied one hundred other church members, and the mountain was crawling with people looking for the boy that first night.

The next morning King County investigators were at the Adams residence organizing additional searches and asking for more technical assistance.

A strange coincidence that we have found in many missing person cases is that the father is not at the residence when the child disappears. Mr. Adams was at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma

when David went missing. Once he heard about the incident, he was granted emergency leave and went back to Issaquah.

The search for David included over four thousand professional and volunteer searchers, an air force helicopter equipped with FLIR, Bloodhounds, and dozens of law enforcement veterans. It was a nonstop five-day e ort that was halted when the involved believed that David was not on the mountain.

The thinking of most law enforcement in 1968 was that David was merely a missing person. This wasn't a location or a time when detectives would immediately think about abduction by a pedophile. The mountains continued to be searched formally and informally; many of the searches were foot by foot. There were many theories floated about what happened to David. There was a so-called "strange fellow" who was living on the mountain. The police did focus on him. There was some talk that he was given a polygraph near the time of the disappearance, and he might have failed it. The strange caveat to that: nobody can remember if he really took the test, as the results and the test are nowhere in the binders of documents associated with the case file.

Warren Kagarise was working for the Issaquah Press in 2009 and wrote a three-part series about this incident. On December 29, 2009, Walter released part three and addressed the canine search for David: "But the dogs like the searchers found nothing. Don Adams, now 77, recalled the follow-up visit from searchers after organizers called o the hunt for David. 'A few weeks later, they came back, and they said the dogs had never failed to find who they were looking for if who they were looking for was there,' he said. 'Based on that, I just assumed that somebody had taken him from the mountain.'" Later in the same article were a few statements from Mrs. Adams and her daughter, each of which I found fascinating: "'We've had a happy, good life,' Ann Adams said. 'Whoever was involved with this, I think I feel sorrier for them than I do for us. My life is just overflowing with good memories and happy days, but they must be carrying a terrible burden.'" The children biked, swam, hiked, and picked berries in the thick forest nearby. Still, questions about David remained. Jill Stephenson, the Adams oldest daughter, recalled how she walked through the woods as a child and wondered, "What if I came across him or his bones?"

The Adams's never moved from their residence and raised their family on the mountain. Yes, children roaming the mountain and picking berries with the concern they may find David's bones.

Summary

I truly admire the attitude and life outlook that Mrs. Adams was able to muster in a time of deep crisis. To move forward with your life and live with the daily reminder that your son disappeared on the mountain where you live shows strength of character.

I first looked at this case when I was initially starting to investigate missing people. I placed this file on the shelf and for some reason came back to it just recently. It wasn't until I started to understand the dynamics and elements associated with the missing did I understand how this case is relevant to the study.

Law enforcement and searchers eliminated any thoughts of an animal attack. David disappeared on a trail, not a roadway or even near a roadway. He was last seen crossing a bridge at a creek. Nearly four thousand searchers covered the mountain foot by foot, never finding any evidence of David being there. Bloodhounds could never find a scent. Helicopters with FLIR never found any heat signature. Air force and navy personnel along with specially trained search and rescue experts contributed countless hours to the e ort to find David.

This is another one of the few cases I've found where the family had deeply religious roots and the father had strong ties to the military. I don't know if this is a significant element to these disappearances, but it is one that many of you have keyed on in the past.

This is another one of dozens of cases where a child disappears while visiting another person's home. It is also ironic that many kids disappear from the area of their new home after living in the area for only weeks. Many of these elements exist in the David Adams case. I find many parallels between David Adams and Dennis Martin's disappearance in Great Smoky Mountain National Park {Missing 4Il-Eastern United States and the disappearance of Dennis Johnson at Yellowstone National Park {Missing 411-Western United States).

Name: Dennis David Dennis Lloyd

Johnson Adams Martin

Date Missing: 7/12/66 5/3/68 6/14/69

Time: 1:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.

Age: 8 years 8 years 6 years

Location: Wooded area Wooded area Wooded area

Evidence: None None None

Parents: Living in Living in Living in

same home same home same home

Disposition: Case Open Case Open Case Open

The Martin and Johnson cases happened in national parks.

In all three cases, siblings were in the area of the disappearances. David's sisters were in his yard playing when he vanished, Dennis Martin's brother was playing with him when he disappeared, and Dennis Johnson's sister was in the woods with him when he was lost.

All the incidents occurred in the "magic hours" of disappearances, afternoon hours. In a very, very odd similarity, there was never any evidence found in any of the three cases.

It should be noted that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has case files on the Martin and Adams case. The National Park Service has failed to send the information on Dennis Johnson to the agency, and the file doesn't exist.

I cannot begin to fathom the level of pain these families have endured. My prayers are with them daily.

Fred Kramer

Missing: July 19, 1961: Glacier Peak Wilderness

Age at Disappearance: 59

Water* Disability* Canine* Point of Separation

Fred Kramer was a wholesale liquor distributor in the city where he lived and worked, Oakland, California. The Kramer family had a long-planned trip to the mountains of Washington sponsored by the Sierra Club, of which Fred was a member.

The Kramer family drove to the Sierra Club Camp that was located in Stehekin, on the banks of Lake Chelan.

On July 19, 1961, the club sponsored a hike into the Cascade Pass-Glacier Peak Wilderness area. Although Fred stated he wanted to go,

his wife (Lottee) and daughter (Susan) stayed in camp. The goal of the 50-person club was to scale Cascade Pass. The pass has an elevation of 5,392 and is in Skagit County.

The group drove up Stehekin Valley Road, stopped at the trailhead, and started to hike. It is a gradual walk to the pass.

Nobody kept track of Fred, and he disappeared from the 15-member group sometime during the day. When they returned to the camp, it was realized that Fred was missing. The county sheri and the United States Forest Service were notified.

An investigation revealed that Kramer was last seen third from the back of a long line of hikers, and nobody remembered him dropping out.

Searchers determined that they would center their SAR in the Doubtful Lake area. SAR o icials made a call for a canine to assist and got this response as explained in the July 23, 1961 edition of the Bellingham Herald, “Sheri ’s o icers were told a rescue unit from Hamilton Air Force Base in California would bring a Bloodhound and handler by plane.” In twelve years of reading SAR reports, I have never heard of the military sending canines on a two-state flight to find a missing person that was not a critical o icial.

In the middle of the SAR, the Kramer family told o icials that Fred had su ered a heart attack last year but had fully recovered. If I was leading the SAR, this information wouldn’t a ect the search; if anything, I’d think it would make it easier to find Fred because he wouldn’t travel far o the trail.

The sheri and Forest Service authorities obtained eighty searchers to work the e ort to find Fred for a week. They were also able to get two di erent Bloodhounds.

On July 27, United States Forest Service o icials, the local sheri , and family members decided to terminate the search.

I was shocked to hear that Fred Kramer was never located. He had a recent heart attack; he was with a large group, third from the end; how could he drop out of the group and not be seen? How could two competent canine teams not pick up his scent?

Articles stated that after the search was terminated, Lottie and Susan returned to their Oakland residence. The pain that those two ladies must’ve felt is unthinkable.

Lorne Bailey

Missing: 08/22/61—Skamania County, WA

Age at Disappearance: 16 years

•Weather* Cluster Zone* Point of Separation* Canines

The region of this disappearance is heaped in strangeness. The exact location is twenty-two miles south of Mount St. Helens in the Gi ord Pinchot National Forest in the state of Washington. It is approximately twenty miles north of the Colombia River. The area is an identified geographical cluster zone of missing people.

Lorne Bailey was a sixteen-year-old living in Centralia, Washington. He knew the outdoors well and had traveled with his father many times into the woods to hunt. During the summer of 1961, Lorne had a relative and a friend who were working as forest lookouts in the Gi ord Pinchot National Forest. Lorne's cousin, Ron Aleshire, was working at the Siouxon Lookout. Lorne left that lookout and walked twelve miles through dense forest, making it to the West Point Lookout, where he visited his friend Louis Barker. The two talked for several hours, and Lome then headed back to the Siouxon Lookou Various articles stated that Lorne knew the area very well and was aware of two di erent camps between the lookouts where there were sleeping bags and stashes of food. Articles also made special mention that it was huckleberry season and that the berries were available throughout his trek. I'll note here that I have stated in several Missing 411 books that berries are often related to disappearances. The most common berry that holds this association is the huckleberry.

Lorne never made it back to see Ron at the Sioux-on Lookout, and authorities were notified. The search started the following day. O icials knew they had a tremendous amount of wilderness to cover, and they understood the enormity of the task.

A few articles stated that bloodhounds brought to the search picked up the boy's scent for a short period near the Siouxon River and then lost it in the heavy

forest. The Skamania County sheri had the lead on the SAR e ort and was getting assistance from the Forest Service. An August 30, 1961, article in the La Grande Observer had an interesting segment about some observations the sheri was following up on: "The Skamania County Sheri 's Office said a party left early today to follow the north fork of Siouxon Creek where an arrow was found drawn in a sandbar." This is an interesting clue. In past books, I have written about other searchers on past events who also found arrows thought to be left by the victim drawn in the dirt.

The search e ort included bloodhounds, helicopters, one hundred

ground searchers, various other county-trained teams, and volunteers. This area is filled with lava tubes that pose an altogether unusual location to search. It's one thing to find the tube to search; it's almost impossible to find every tube that's out there.

L.W. Bailey, Lorne's father, was on the search effort and participating almost from the first day. He knew his son's abilities and doubted he would die in the wilderness. An October 3, 1961, article in the Centralia Daily Chronicle detailed L.W.'s thoughts: "His father says he now believes his son has left the mountains and is a victim of amnesia or shock."

The last bit of information I will pass on to readers is from an article in the September 2, 1961, edition of the Centralia Daily Chronicle: "Weather in the area was cloudy with light showers, preventing use of a plane this morning." Searchers were attempting to put planes in the sky to look for Lorne, and weather inhibited this.

The searchers could not find any evidence that Lorne was anywhere in the Gi ord Pinchot National Forest, except for one possible walking stick found near the arrow drawn in the sand. They never found torn clothing or signs of a struggle or an animal attack—nothing. The disappearance of Lome Bailey hasn't been discussed in many decades, but I hope this section stimulates people to bring this discussion into the public forum.

In the year after Lome disappeared, his parents requested and received a death certificate. You will not find Lome on any database as a missing person. I would hope NAMUS (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System) would now approach Lome's family and obtain DNA samples. The boy's body has never been found and probably never will at this point. I cannot imagine the hell that Lome's parents felt at the ongoing knowledge that closure never came to the family, and they passed away never knowing what became of Lome.

Ann Marie Burr

Missing 8/31/61-5:30 a.m., 3000 Block N. 14th St., Tacoma, WA

Age at Disappearance: 8 years

Weather* Point of Separation* Canine

The Burr family lived in a three-story home in the 3000 block of 14th Street in North Tacoma. This was a fairly urban existence except for an overgrown creek region just north of the home that snaked its way

to Commencement Bay. If it weren't for that overgrown creek, this case would not appear in this chapter.

The night of August 31, 1961, was like any other for the family of six. Ann Marie was sleeping upstairs with her sister, Mary (age three), and Julie (age seven) and Greg (age five) were sleeping downstairs in the basement. At 11 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bun- retired to their ground-floor bedroom for the night.

The night of August 31-September 1 was anything but normal, and a night the family would never forget. The weather turned horrible with heavy rain and winds ripping the neighborhood throughout the evening. The Burr neighborhood was in a state of construction; sewer lines up to thirty feet deep were open pits and penetrating all the nearby streets.

Sometime during the night Ann Marie brought her sister (Mary) to her parents' bedroom for comfort, because her sister was crying. Mary had recently broken her arm and was still su ering some pain. The parents weren't sure of the exact hour but quickly went back to sleep.

For some unexplained reason, at 5:30 a.m. Mrs. Burr became restless and got up. She admitted that this was an unusual time for her to rise, but she did and went into the living room. She found the front room window wide open and the front door latch undone—the door was unlocked and standing open. Mrs. Burr searched the house and found Ann Marie gone. Mr. Burr was awakened, and a formal search of the residence and yard was completed, and then the police were called.

Tacoma Police found that a small bench was leaning against the sidewall below the window. The police also found footprints but couldn't determine their size because of the heavy rain during the night. In a very unusual part of this case, the Burrs had a family dog, a Cocker Spaniel, which the night of the disappearance was shut in a hallway between the kitchen and the basement entrance. The parents and the kids stated the dog never made a sound during the night. The police later made statements that they believed that someone might have taken Ann Marie who knew the family, and that's why the dog never made a sound.

Mr. Burr was a civilian employee at the National Guard Camp Murray. He was not wealthy, and a ransom demand was never made. Fort Lewis sent one hundred soldiers, helicopters, and Bloodhounds to assist in the search for the girl; nothing was ever found. The FBI was monitoring the case but o icially never entered, because in their mind,

abduction was never proven.

Tacoma Police theorized that either an abductor came into the residence and took Ann Marie, or she wandered away on her own, hmm. I sometimes have to seriously wonder what detectives were thinking when they made these statements. The front window of the residence was wide open, and a bench was leaning against an outside window—why? Does someone believe that Ann Marie just indiscriminately opened the front window of the residence during the night? Does someone believe that a family member walked out in the mud during the night? The puzzling part of the story is there is no mention in any articles of muddy shoe prints inside the residence, probably needed to prove a suspect entered the house during a rainstorm. It seems a strange coincidence that the neighborhood was going through major construction with the installation of sewer lines at the same time Ann Marie disappeared.

There have been dozens of articles about this case over the years. Some people theorize that Ted Bundy may have abducted Ann Marie, but he has been eliminated. This case has been classified as abduction by Washington law enforcement; she has never been found.

Summary

There is one other case that I've written about that has similarities to the Ann Marie Burr disappearance. in Missing 4Il-Eastern United States, I chronicled the disappearance of Kevin Jay Ayotte from Sugar Bush, Minnesota. Kevin was a three-year-old hearing-impaired boy staying with his family at their summer cabin in rural northern Minnesota. Kevin was in an upstairs bedroom with his brother when he vanished. Kevin was never found, and searchers found nothing during searches of the region.

Ann Marie's residence is approximately twenty miles northeast of Fort Lewis, the location where Tommy Jenkins disappeared.

George J. Weber

Missing: October 22, 1961, Black Lake

Age at Disappearance: 74 Years Old

Water* Hunter* Canines*

This incident happened at Black Lake, a small body of water three miles west of Tumwater. The area around the lake, even today, is

somewhat rural. In 1961 the region would have been great for hunting with bogs and deep thickets and still close to Tumwater and Olympia.

The search for George Weber happened through an unusual set of circumstances explained in the October 24, 1961 edition of the Olympian, “Search for Weber was triggered Monday afternoon by Preston Kinney, Route Eight, Kinney figured a hunter may have lost his way after noting a pickup truck parked on the Nels Brown Road since late Sunday (October 22). Kinney passed the word along to Thurston County Sheri ’s Deputies.”

Before we delve deep into this story, I want to use Preston’s example of what everyone should do when they suspect anything is wrong. The sheri and police want to respond to these types of incidents and are there to respond to suspicious circumstances. Therefore, do not hesitate to call law enforcement when you suspect something that needs law enforcement follow-up.

The Thurston County sheri responded, ran the license plate on the truck, and determined it belonged to George Weber. The deputy contacted George’s son and determined they knew nothing about their dad going hunting that day. They also confirmed that their dad hunted that area many times in the past and that the idea he might have gotten lost was not reasonable. The son also told the deputy that their dad was very sharp and was an experienced hunter.

The search was initiated immediately with many resources thrown at the hunter, as is explained in this October 25, 1961 edition of the Olympian, “ Man pinned much of his hope on tracking dogs Wednesday afternoon as searchers for the third day continued to beat the brush south of Black Lake for 74-y ear-old George J. Weber. The retired longshoreman, missing since Sunday, is presumed to have gone hunting in the rugged terrain.” The sheri also contacted the Artillery Brigade, C Company, Second Battle Group, 161st Infantry, which sent 50 soldiers to search. Seventy citizen volunteers searched the region for multiple days.

A seven-day SAR looking for George found only one unusual item. They located a three-point buck dead in the search zone. It was shot by a 25-caliber bullet that was believed to have been shot by George. Nothing else related to the hunter was ever located.

The SAR was terminated on October 31.

On December 9, there was one last search for George that Sheri

Clarence Van Allen organized. The sheri stated that he believed the deer hunter had died but wanted to try to recover a body. George's two sons, Charles and Kenneth, participated in the effort to locate their dad, which was unsuccessful.

George J. Weber was never found.

Claude Goodwin

Missing: 06/16/63, Fifteen miles upstream from Entiat, WA

Age at disappearance: 8

Point of Separation« Water« Canines«

The Goodwin family drove from their home in Seattle to a camping spot on the Entiat River thirty miles north of Entiat, Washington.

On June 16, 1963, the family was taking a hike in the area of the campsite when they momentarily lost sight of their eight-year-old boy, Claude. The family looked for the boy for several hours and then called the Chelan County Sheri 's O ice for assistance.

Sheri Dick Nickell responded with a large contingent of SAR members and deputies. The teams scoured the hillside where the boy had disappeared but could not locate him. Some feared that maybe the boy had wandered to the river and drowned. Two bloodhounds tracked the boy's scent to the river and stopped. Dive teams from the county sheri 's O ice searched the river for two days but never found the boy. It should be noted that there are stories in this book where other bloodhounds tracked children's scents to a river but the kids were later found nowhere near the river. In the months after Claude disappeared, his body never surfaced in the river and Claude was never found.

Bobby Panknin

Missing: 08/03/63, Deep Lake (Kettle Falls), WA

Age at disappearance: 4

Water* Point of Separation* Canines*

Note: If there is one case in this book that exemplifies how quickly a child can become lost in the forest, this is it. Read this thoroughly and understand how quickly things can go horribly wrong in the wilds of North America.

This story first appeared in Missing 411 Western United States. I was able to travel to Deep Lake in 2022 while I was attending a conference in Metaline Falls. My opinion about this disappearance changed drastically after talking with reporters in Washington and visiting the site of the incident.

The Panknin family lived 80 air miles south of Deep Lake in Spokane. The family arrived in the eastern Washington city in 1962 after Mr. Panknin had moved the family from Turkey where he had served for the U.S. Air Force. He had just retired and decided to take the family to the Big Lake resort for a weekend of camping. They found a camping location at the northeast section of the lake near a small stream. Big Lake sits just ten miles south of the Canadian border.

The first day of camping was uneventful. On Saturday, Mr. Panknin and his son Ted went fishing while Mrs. Panknin took their other sons, Bobby (4), Jimmy (6), and Billy (10), on a hike behind their campsite to look at a small waterfall just o an old logging road. The logging road is on the east side of the Deep Lake Boundary road that travels up the east side of the lake. East of the logging road is nothing but wilderness for eight miles until you reached Metaline Falls. This is a very wild section of the State of Washington.

The group reached the area of the falls, and Mrs. Panknin told Bobby to sit on the ground on the old road and wait a few minutes while she and the brothers walked ten feet to look at the falls. Mrs. Panknin knew that Bobby couldn't walk through the brush to see the falls because he was only wearing a swimsuit, and no shoes, and the ground was very rough.

Mrs. Panknin and the two boys walked ten feet to look at the falls, and in less than two minutes, were back on the logging road. Bobby was gone (Spokesman Review, August 6, 1963). The group knew a car

hadn't driven down the road, as they would have heard it and the dust would've been overwhelming. The group hadn't heard any people. The boys and their mother immediately started to yell out for Bobby, but there was no answer. The group started to spread out and yell. Still, there was no answer. They ran back to the resort to get more assistance, and immediately a search was initiated.

The Deep Lake Resort is located in the far northern section of Stevens County. The local sheri sent men to aid in the search and also requested bloodhounds. At midnight on August 6, the sheri gave a bloodhound Bobby's scent from the boy's shoe, and the dog took o on a dead run. He ran for almost two miles until it came to a fork in the logging road, where it then came to a screeching halt and didn't move. Why the dog stopped and what may have happened to Bobby at this point are confusing. The road wasn't in good shape; there were no cars. What happened here? On August 6, 1963, Stevens County Sheri A. E. "Dutch" Holter gave an interview to the Spokesman Review admitting he could not understand the strange disappearance of the child. I learned that this case haunted Sheri Holter for his entire career. He always had a photo of Bobby under the glass on his desk.

The search for Bobby Panknin lasted one week, with over one thousand searchers on horseback and foot. The sheri was at a complete loss for an adequate explanation. There were some theories that a bear may have grabbed Bobby, but bear dogs were brought into the area and didn't find a bear or a scene with blood, clothing, etc., that would indicate a bear attack. Searchers could not find any drag marks on the ground, causing some to believe a giant eagle carried Bobby away; however, the majority of the searchers discounted that.

On August 12, 1963, Mr. Panknin gave an interview to the Tri-City Herald and summed up his thoughts about his lost son: "It's as if Bobby climbed to the top of a tree and then kept on going." The sheri made several statements to the e ect that Bobby could not have walked very far because the ground area was quite rugged and the boy was not wearing shoes, which is the reason his mother didn't take him to the waterfall.

In many of the cases of missing children, they are alone for just a very short period of time. If you were watching, it may seem as though they are abandoned.

It is during that very short period of time, something unexplained happens.

Case Summary

In the thousands of missing persons cases I have reviewed, this is one case that indicates someone or something was watching the Panknins as they walked that logging road. As unusual and odd as this sounds, there really is no other explanation. Someone waited for the opportunity and then grabbed Bobby. This person must have had tremendous strength and dex-terity, and must have known the region like their own backyard, to muzzle Bobby so he wouldn't scream and carry him a very long distance to get out of the area. No, it wasn't a wild animal; there was no scene of violence, blood, or drag marks. Someone was very stealthy, very smart, and very quick to grab Bobby and flee the entire area in less than two minutes—an amazing feat.

The lack of identifiable footprints in this area is not unusual. The ground in many forests is very hard and covered with leaves and twigs. To escape without leaving any prints, the abductor must have walked up the creek and on rocks, never leaving behind any evidence.

One thousand people combed every foot of the mountainside where Bobby disappeared; they found no evidence that he was ever in the area. The facts surrounding Bobby's disappearance are indisputable and were validated by the boy's brothers.

About one hundred and forty air miles southeast of Deep Lake is Lake Wenatchee, the ap-proximate location of the disappearance of another boy, Jimmy Du y, under very similar circumstances. As someone who does not believe in coincidences, this strikes me as an overwhelming connection. Du y was two years old and Panknin was four at the time each disappeared. None of these boys were ever found. Each boy was left alone just momentarily and vanished.

Wagner Robinson Jr.

Missing: 11/13/65, Bumping Lake, WA Age at disappearance: 28 years

Cluster Zone* Weather* Hunter* Water I'd like you to go to a computer and go to Google Maps and look up "Bumping Lake" in Washington. It is just southwest of Goose Prairie and just ten air miles from the peak of Mount Rainier. I have written extensively about Mount Rainier National Park and the many unusual disappearances inside the boundaries of the park.

Wagner Robinson Jr. was born in Tacoma, married his wife Ann, and had four children, Mike, Rita, Jeanne, and Shirley. Wagner loved the outdoors, enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was a responsible father.

He was a sales representative for an auto parts supplier, Lee and Lee. He purchased a $12,500 accidental death insurance family to ensure his family would be taken care of in case he met his demise.

On November 12, 1965, Wagner “Wags” Robinson told his wife Ann that he was driving to the area of Goose Lake, fifty miles northwest of Yakima, to go elk hunting. He said good-bye to their four children and left. Wags was an extremely experienced hunter and outdoorsman.

Wagner and three friends left Tacoma, drove to the area of Goose Prairie, and established a hunting camp. They intended to elk hunt the region around Bumping Lake and Chinook Pass. The men established their base and woke early on Saturday, November 13.

Robinson had brought a trail bike to ride the trails and get into remote areas. He told his friends he was headed out and would be back that night. He never returned.

Wagner Robinsons’ friends fired o rounds, hiked out on trails, and honked the horn on their car, hoping to attract their friend’s attention.

Early on November 14, Wagner’s friends contacted the Yakima County Sheri ’s o ice and reported their companion missing.

While waiting for the sheri to formulate a plan, the friends found Wagner’s trail bike. It was never stated where this was located.

The exact location of the incident varies slightly from article to article. Some stated that he was in the area north of Goose Prairie, and others stated he was in the area of Bumping Lake. Su ice it to say, he was just outside the eastern boundary of Mount Rainier National Park. This is a very rugged region known for disappearances.

Many articles stated that searchers had to cope with two feet deep snow as they made their way through the search zone. There is one item about this search that I will never forget, the sheri who headed this SAR had the greatest name I have ever read for the head of a law enforcement agency, Bert Guns. Four days after Wags vanished, there was this update in the November 17 edition of the Daily Chronicle: “Yakima County Sheri Bert Guns said upwards of 75 men and Explorer Scouts hunted Wednesday for Robinson, who failed to rejoin his hunting party at Goose Prairie near Bumping Lake. Guns said that Robinson may have been hurt in a fall or wounded.” Law enforcement requested and got one hundred fifty soldiers from the Third Brigade of the Fourth Infantry Division from Fort Lewis. The men covered some of the toughest areas in the search grids.

The search was formally terminated November 23 because of snow conditions, cold weather, and the lack of any clues. Friends and family went back to the search area for months after the disappearance, continually looking for anything related to the incident. Nothing was ever found.

Thirty days after Wags vanished, Ann filed for a determination of death in the local courts. She needed this declaration to obtain benefits for her children. The judge granted this request. Understand what this determination means. You will not find Wagner Robinson on any missing persons poster, billboard, and computer list as a missing person, none. You may ask why this is the case: he's not missing; he's dead according to the law. When I first learned of this peculiarity in our justice system, I didn't understand it. What this e ectively does is wipe the slate clean of missing people, and you never really know how many have vanished.

On October 23, 2002, the Associated Press ran an article about this: "The 1965 Disappearance of Man Near Goose Prairie Remains a Mystery." This covered many of the items I explained in the story. It went on to say that he had previously divorced another woman in years past, and this was his second family. He had two children from his first family. This news is not earth-shattering. There were claims by some people who believed they saw Wags after the incident; again, this is pretty normal in missing person cases where there is mass publicity. Not one of the sightings was ever validated. The reporter did ask a relative what he thought about what happened: "Tt was as if he'd disappeared o the face of the Earth,' recalled his cousin, Bill Robinson, 80 of Tacoma, who helped look for him in 1965."

It's important to make the connection between the disappearance of Joe Blackburn and Wagner's case. Both men vanished in essentially the same area nineteen years apart. If the incidents happened a few years apart, local authorities would remember and take note. You separate the cases by nineteen years, and nobody remembers. These happened just outside of Mount Rainier National Park, where there is an estab-lished geographical cluster of missing people.

Leonard Vacknitz

Missing: 11/18/65, 3:00 p.m., Sol Duc, WA

Age at disappearance: 43 years

Point of Separation* Canines* Cluster Zone* Hunter* Weather
The following similarities exist between the Wagner Robinson case and this one: (5) Both hunters

(6) Both never found

(7) Both fathers of six

(8) Both happily married

(9) Weather hampered both search efforts

(10) Both lost in the forests of Washington

(11) Disappearances were just five days apart

Leonard was a married father of six with a great job as an inspector for the Boeing Corporation. He and his family lived in Bothell, Washington. On November 17, Leonard left the family home, headed for a region on the north side of Olympic National Park called Sol Duc. I've written about other men who disappeared just north of this location. The woods are very thick, and the area is usually wet or moist.

On the morning of November 18, Leonard and his friend Rue Dewey left their camp and headed into the woods. During the day, the hunters got separated. Rue made his way back to camp early that night. Leonard did not. Rue waited for several hours, hoping that Leonard would return; he never did. The Clallam County sheri was called and took control of the search. .

The sheri obtained the assistance of local forest rangers and volunteers from the surrounding communities. Bloodhounds were brought in to assist the search e ort and failed to find a scent of the hunter. A November 25, 1965, article in the Port Angeles Evening News had these details late in the search: "Poor weather and dangerous conditions halted the search for Leonard Vacknitz of Bothell. He has been missing from an elk hunting trip in Sol Duc Valley since Thursday." The massive e ort to find Leonard included sheri 's deputies, civil air patrol, mountain rescue personnel, US National Forest and US National Park rangers, Boeing employees, and Department of Natural Resources personnel.

Search supervisors stated that over eight hundred hours of actual

search time were committed to finding Leonard. Teams were ba led that the hunter couldn't be found since he knew the location they were hunting, and all you needed to do was follow flowing water downhill, and this would take you to the Strait of Juan De Fuca and roadways with subsequent safety just five to eight miles north.

In past books I have talked about coincidences. Do you believe in them? The facts surrounding Leonard's and Wagner's cases cannot be overlooked. The odds that two men with six children, each hunting in Washington State, disappear within five days of each other and are never found seem astronomical. Don't start getting numb to the disappearances you are reading about. The vast number of people who disappear are found. You are reading about some very unusual incidents with matching profile points that don't make any sense. It is very odd that when you start to profile the cases, picking specific incidents that match what you are looking for, that the similarities start to show themselves.

Arthur Norburg

Missing: 12/05/66, Matheny Creek, WA Age at disappearance: 35 years

Water* Cluster Zone* Point of Separation* Bow Hunter* Weather* Missing Clothing

This incident happened on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula just north of the Quinault Indian Reservation and the north side of Matheny Creek. The Quinault area has long been associated with some of the most unusual phenomena the world can imagine.

I have always stated that the disappearances have a close relationship with water. The Olympic Peninsula is surrounded on three sides by huge bodies of water. The region gets significant amounts of precipitation and does not get a lot of foot tra ic from hikers, fishermen, and hunters.

When I look back at the number of hunters I have documented that have vanished, one type of hunter seems to disappear more than others and is rarely seen alive, bow hunters. I do know of one bow hunter that vanished while armed with a large-caliber handgun and still has never been found: Mel Nadel, of New Mexico. (Incident in "Missing 411 The Hunted).

On December 5, 1966, Arthur Norburg was in a hunting camp on the north side of Matheny Creek north of Quinault. The woods in this area

are unbelievably thick and rich. The greenery in the area would overwhelm anyone.

Arthur woke early, and he left after breakfast with the others in his party. He was bow hunting for elk. Sometime around midday, Arthur somehow got separated from the rest in his party. Once the group got back to their camp, they waited till dark and Arthur had not returned. Members of the group then left to call the sheri .

Almost immediately after Arthur had vanished, the weather started to turn for the worse. The local sheri tried to gather together three hundred searchers and methodically go through the area where he vanished. A December 8, 1966, article in the Spokane Daily Chronicle stated, “A storm dumped two feet of snow since yesterday in the Matheny Creek Ridge area of the Olympic National Forest where the search centered. Temperatures were below freezing.” The article went on to say that Explorer Scouts, four-by- four rescue units, and the Mountain Rescue Council had all been assisting in the search.

The amount of snow that inundated the search area in this incident is unusual. On December 12, an article in the same paper quoted above stated that there had now been up to six feet of snow dumped on the SAR.

On December 12, the local sheri stated that the area became too dangerous, and there was no way that Arthur could’ve survived the deep snow and freezing weather. The search was terminated.

There was nothing new to report on the e ort to find Arthur until a June 28, 1967, article in the Port Angeles Evening News", the article stated that a jacket, an arm guard, and a set of finger guards were found June 18 in the Matheny Ridge area. The article stated, “Norburg’s coat was found neatly folded at the base of a tree, according to Je erson County Sheri , Robert Hansen, the area in which Norburg disappeared and in which the jacket was found was under as much as six feet of snow at the time of Norburg’s disappearance.” This may mean nothing to you, un-less you’ve already read the Montana book and Robert Springfield’s disappearance: the only two cases of missing hunters that I know about where clothing or accessories were later found neatly folded or rolled. In both cases the hunter’s coats were also found at the scene. Think about this fact, if there was six feet of snow on the ground in the area where the jacket was found, how odd would that be to find the coat neatly folded on the ground six months later? I think that is very odd and unusual. I can’t think of another instance where any clothing was found six months later in the

wild that wasn't damaged in some way by rodents, mammals, or birds, regardless what six feet of snow would do.

Searchers did go back into the area where the items were located and spent several days working in an inside-out search manner attempting to find the victim's remains. They found nothing.

You can now add another very strange case to this area just north of Quinault. You can also add another missing person who was bow hunting for elk that has never been found.

Robert Kepner

Missing: September 21, 1967, Neah Bay

Age at Disappearance: 22 Years

Cluster Zone* Intellect« Water« Disability

One of the sub-groups of the missing person profile is intellect. The number of brilliant people that have vanished is ba ling. Many of these people had a high level of common sense piled onto their genius daily operating level.

Robert Kepner was raised in Vancouver, Washington, just over the border from Oregon. He attended Fort Vancouver High School for International Studies and, in 1962, was the co-valedictorian. He was offered a multitude of scholarships and was a national merit scholar. Although he could have attended any university in the world, he chose the California Institute of Technology and majored in Chemistry.

Once Robert obtained his bachelor's degree, he decided to come back closer to home and attended the University of Washington to major in Psychology. He was entering his second year of graduate school in September of 1967.

Graduate School at the University of Washington started on September 21. Robert told friends and family that he was going to get away for a few days before school started. He was going back to a location he had gone to in the past, the forest just south of Neah Bay.

Robert found a campsite o the roadway and established a camp with a tent and clothesline on September 17, with the intent of leaving on September 19.

On October 3,1967, a hiker came across the abandoned campsite of Robert's near Petroleum Creek. They walked a bit further and came across his small white car. The hiker feared there was something wrong and contacted the local sheri . A deputy responded, found the car, and eventually reached Robert's parents.

The campsite had a sleeping bag, and clothes on the clothesline and only appeared to have had someone there in at least two weeks. Law enforcement searched the student's home and found nothing unusual nor any sign of Robert. However, they found mail stacked up for over two weeks.

Robert's campsite was on the Makah Native American Reservation. The Clallam County Sheri took charge of the search e ort and immediately contacted the Coast Guard in Neah Bay and requested a helicopter to search from the air. The Clallam County SAR team, Air Force Personnel, Port Angeles Police, and local Boy Scouts all contributed to the search for Robert. However, it was also explained that air searches were limited because rain and fog interfered with the search e orts.

The lead SAR o icial did say they found no evidence that Robert accidentally entered the ocean, but there was no evidence that they discovered that showed where he was. One of the articles about the search stated that they were looking for a hiker. Kepner's parents did say that their son liked to hike when he camped in this area.

Robert was never found. As you read this book, you will come across the 1995 disappearance of Bryce Herda. The location where Bryce vanished is essentially the same as the Kepner camp. Petroleum Creek runs along the south side of Shi Shi Beach. Olympic National Park, a cluster of missing people, is southeast of this location. Just five miles north of the Kepner camp is the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Along this strait, on the Canadian and United States sides, are a series of disappearances of men and young boys, no women. Nobody that has disappeared along the strait has ever been located.

Many of the cases I write about involve a victim with a disability that may not be obvious. For example, Robert Kepner had severe vision issues, vision that was so bad that he was almost legally blind without his glasses.

It is not a coincidence that Robert Kepner and Bryce Herda disappeared in almost the same place.

If the incidents happened within five years of each other, people would make the connection. However, if I separate the incidents by 28 years, only a few will ever remember the incident.

John Stratton

Missing: 10/18/67, Rocky Creek, Selkirk Mountains, WA

Age at disappearance: 79 years

Cluster Zone* Canines* Weather* Hunter

There are few people who even think about the far northeast corner of

Washington State. This area is adjacent to the Idaho border, and I have written about several disappearances in the general area. This part of the state is rugged and gorgeous.

In mid-October 1967, seventy-nine-year-old John Stratton left his home in Park Rapids, Washington, and drove to an area fifteen miles northeast of Colville near Rocky Creek. John lived and hunted the area for years and knew the area extremely well. He left his cabin in the area to hunt and was supposed to be gone just for the day. When he didn't return, he was report-ed missing on October 21.

The Pend Oreille County Sheri took the lead on the SAR. Their first order of business dealt with finding exactly where he was hunting. That was going to be determined by finding his car. The vehicle was located October 23 by sheri 's deputies. An October 27,1967, article in the Spokane Daily Chronicle described where it was located: "Stratton's car was found on the side of a logging road about three miles from Rocky Creek Road in Pend Oreille County." The sheri focused on the area near the vehicle and called in resources.

At this point in the SAR, John had been missing for three days. The sheri didn't waste any time getting additional Bloodhounds. He called for a specialized team from the Olympia area. He also ordered a plane and got it. They were initially searching a small area of the Colville National Forest. The search area gradually grew.

The search for John lasted for seven days after they found his car. The search found nothing. The area they were searching was covered with snow, and few tracks were found. The sheri made a statement that the search was stopped for bad weather and heavy snow. An October 31, 1967, article in the Spokesman Review had this: "Six inches of snow fell in the area- named 'Seldom-Seen Mountain' late Saturday and hampered search e orts." The total e ort to find John included sixty-five to one hundred searchers, six Bloodhounds, four square miles covered, and a plane. He was not found. The sheri stated that he would search for the body in the spring when the snow melts.

During my archive search for what transpired on the spring search for Stratton, I found a mention that John Stratton was found drowned in a hole. This was found in a Washington newspaper, The Kitsap Sun, November 5, 1968. When I read the article, I was stunned, here is what it said, "John Stratton, 7, Kent, drowned Sunday in 10 feet of water in an elevation hole near his home while playing with his brother." The fact I found another death of someone with the exact name in the same state is strange! This has happened to me before, in

Colorado. I did a further search for the elderly John Stratton and found nothing. Do you believe in coincidences?

Milton Armstrong

Date of Disappearance: September 14, 1968, Mount Rainier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 54 Years old

Cluster Zone* Missing Clothing* Weather

Milton Armstrong was a retired Navy O icer living in Valley Center, California. He visited relatives in Washington and then moved on to a long-planned trip up the side of Mount Rainier.

On September 11, he left his relative's home, said he'd be back in two days, and parked his car in Paradise at the 500-foot elevation on the side of Rainier. He took his backpack and coat and started up the well-defined trail for his destination, the Muir Campground.

By September 15, Armstrong's relatives had not heard from him and called Mount Rainier Park Police. The rangers went to the parking lot in Paradise and found his vehicle with a note indicating he should have been back by September 13. This discovery put the park police into high gear.

On September 16 Rangers had formed a SAR team to hike to the Muir Campground to search for the missing hiker. Unfortunately, three feet of snow had fallen the previous two days, eliminating many tracks.

When they reached the campground, the SAR team was confronted with strong wind and blowing snow. Rangers found Armstrong's pack and coat in the shelter, a terrible indicator. In addition, fog was now starting to surround the shelter making the search for Milton more di icult and dangerous. Because of weather conditions, search activity was minimalized on September 16.

On September 17, there were 60 miles per hour winds on the mountain, restricting any search.

On September 19, the winds subsided, and the park service was able to put a helicopter into the area to search from the air. Unfortunately, the aircraft found nothing of value.

On September 20, strong winds and blowing snow made searching too

dangerous, and the SAR was terminated.

The hike that Milton took was a strenuous 4.5 miles one way. It is considered rugged. It was obvi-ous he made it to the hut. He dropped his backpack and coat there. This reminded me of someone who had made an exhausting trip, was sweating, may be needed to use the restroom, dropped his supplies, and walked into the woods to take care of business. I understand why NPS termed the SAR because of weather conditions. However, I need help understanding that in 55+ years, nobody has found his boots, belt, strips of clothing, etc. Where did Milton Armstrong spend his last waking minutes?

Kevin Lee Conner

Missing: 08/26/71-9:30pm, Clallam County, WA

Age at Disappearance: 13 years

Mark Peal

Age at Disappearance: 10 years

• Cluster Zone* Canines* Water* Double Disappearance

The more I research missing people, the more disappointed I get in law enforcement. There have been several instances when I have contacted an agency asking for an incident report, only to be told it no longer exists. I know you will ask yourself the very question I ask them: How can they lose a report on an open case? The agencies are always embarrassed and try the best they can to put something together that appears to be a report. In this incident, I was given a series of newspaper articles and an incident report that states it was put together because the original report didn't exist. Deputies state they contacted the parents of the victims and obtained newspaper articles that helped them put together facts associated with the incident. In essence, they had no idea what happened, because it occurred many years earlier, and the peo-ple associated with investigating the case had retired or died. The Clallam sheri had been contacted by the Center for Missing and Exploited Children asking why Kevin and Mark were not listed on their website as missing. The sheri investigated and determined the department had made a mistake.

Mark Peal (L) and Kevin Conner (R)

The one extremely valuable item I did receive from the sheri 's records was one of the most ex-tensive search-and-rescue reports I'd ever read. The report was a typed, nine-page report that read like a comprehensive law-enforcement report. The report wasn't signed, but the documentation was very well done.

The families of Kevin Lee Conner and Mark Peal traveled from their residences in Bellevue, Washington, to camp in the Agate-Crescent Beach Campground. At the time, this was a private facility under the jurisdiction of the Clallam County sheri . The exact location was eight miles directly north of Olympic Hot Springs inside Olympic National Park. I was shocked to see on a map how close this disappearance was to the case of James Gri in described later in this chapter. The

campground is also eight miles west of Port Angeles and forty miles straight east on the coast from Neah Bay and the disappearance of Bryce Herda. In my research on missing people, I have now documented four young boys who have disappeared on beaches in the United States, all of them in Washington. Why? No young girls have vanished on beaches—just boys. I have also documented one young boy who vanished on a beach northwest of Neah Bay on Vancouver Island in Canada, just across the Straights of Juan De Fuca. Is all this a coincidence?

On August 26, 1971, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Kevin Conner and Mark Peal left their parents' campsite and walked o to explore the area. A lot of stories in the media claim many things, but these facts come directly from SAR reports and are in direct conflict with many of the rumors spread in the media at the time.

The boys may have been boys to their parents, but people looking at Kevin probably didn't realize he was only thirteen years old. Kevin was a tall five feet and ten inches for a young teenager. I'm sure many who looked at him initially thought he was an adult. Mark was an average five feet tall for a ten-year-old.

The boys didn't come back for dinner, and this caused their family's great concern. At 9:30 p.m., the fathers of the boys contacted the owner of the campground, Ken Novak, and asked for assistance. Ken, and his son joined Fred and Eric Conner and Richard Peal to search the area around the bunkers. This area of the Pacific Coast had World War II-era bunkers built into the hillside above the beaches to protect the coast from enemy ships. They had long since been abandoned by the military but were still an interesting location to visit. The parents believed Mark and Kevin had been headed to the bunkers, but the group returned to their camp without any success. At 11:30 p.m., the Clallam County Sheri 's Department was called with a report of two missing boys from the Agate-Crescent Campground.

At 12:45 a.m. on August 27, Clallam County Deputy Vic Talvi arrived on the scene and started to accumulate details. It wasn't long before the deputy recognized the seriousness of the issue and had dispatch call East Side Search and Rescue (ESAR) for assistance. At 2:00 a.m., ESAR members started to arrive, along with a bloodhound and handler. Searchers scoured the area from 2:00 a.m. until 5:30 a.m., finding nothing. The canine worked the Agate and Crescent Beach region and never picked up a scent.

The formal search for Kevin and Mark commenced at 6:00 a.m. on

August 27. Searchers allowed the parents to participate, which is unusual. This doesn't happen in today's environment. Mark's father, Richard Peal, found matches that were the same as the ones his family had at their campsite. These were located in the bunker above Agate Beach. The sheri confirmed they were a match; he also commented that they were the same type used by many in the Pacific Northwest. In the afternoon, Mr. Peal and Mr. Conner found a footprint believed to be Kevin's east of the Salt Creek Campground. Bloodhounds were brought to the scene but didn't react to any scent. The dogs were then taken to the bunker where the matches had been found and didn't react to any scent there either.

On August 28, caretakers at the Salt Creek Campground reported seeing the boys the previous day in the afternoon hours, probably 2:30 p.m. Bloodhounds were brought to this area and found a strong scent west from the barnyard that took them to the Salt Creek Bridge, where it was lost midspan. This was between Crescent Beach and the Salt Creek Campground. The caretakers, the Zidells, stated that the boys had entered their property near the barn. Kevin asked Mrs. Zidell if they (Her and her husband) slept in the barn, and she replied that they slept in their house. The Zidells stated that the boys had left in the general direction of the beach. On August 29, the US Army sent 450 soldiers from Fort Lewis to assist for two days. The troops were from the Third Armored Calvary Regiment. This was at the request of Clallam County Sheri Harley Bishop. They had the coast guard and army helicopters flying in the sky and a coast guard cutter patrolling the coast. Various reports stated that up to seven hundred volun-teer searchers converged on the coastal region to o er their assistance. It was during this time that the FBI called the sheri and inquired as to whether he had any evidence of an abduction or crime. The sheri 's o ice stated that they had nothing indicating an abduction and told the FBI their assistance was not needed.

After a massive four-day search, the sheri approached the parents and told them there was nothing else they could do regarding a search. The Conners and Peals were devastated and returned to their homes.

The Clallam County sheri didn't stop the investigation just because the search was terminated, however. Investigators determined that the boys had spoken with Betty Conner and Jack Weddle (Kevin's uncle) at 1:30 p.m. near the bait shop at a motel. This was near the Crescent Beach boat ramp. The boys had then approached Dee in the Crescent Beach o ice asking if they could get from Agate Beach to Crescent Beach along the water. She'd said no.

Investigators were contacted by an anonymous caller, who said she had seen two boys matching Kevin's and Mark's descriptions cutting through the campgrounds between Crescent Beach O ice and the woods south of the campground. No time was given.

I could not find one confirmed sighting of the boys going anywhere toward the bunkers. I couldn't find one investigative statement pointing to a possible abduction or suspect anywhere in the reports.

The boys' parents o ered a $2,000 reward for information. There were many unconfirmed sightings at various levels, which is normal in a high-profile case of this nature. It is highly unusual for two people to completely vanish in one incident. Kevin was a big kid. His physical stature likely would cause anyone thinking about abduction to pause, especially since there were two people.

I'll state it again: it is very odd to find a recent disappearance in such close proximity to this incident just inside of Olympic National Park. This disappearance, coupled with the disappearance in Neah Bay (Bryce Herda), make this area of Washington very unusual. I cannot imagine the shock both families must have felt when Clallam County deputies approached them and explained they'd lost the case file on this incident. Families are always under the belief that someone is forever looking for their lost loved one—this is entirely untrue. The federal government should have a law that mandates law-enforcement agencies maintain case files on missing people for at least one hundred years. It's an embarrassment to the profession that an agency would so easily dispose of a case where hundreds could be kept on a mere CD.

The boys were never found, and this is still an open case.

James Annis

Missing: 11/13/71, Skamania County, near Cowlitz County Line, WA

Age at disappearance: 16 years Cluster Zone* Point of Separation* Elk Hunter* Area Previously Searched* Canines

The area of this incident is the far western edge of Skamania County, Washington, near Mount Saint Helens. This region is very rugged with a long history of strangeness and missing people. I have written about the disappearance of a photographer from the side of Mount Saint Helens that is one of the most ba ling of all stories I have covered (Joe Carter).

In this incident, James Annis was elk hunting with his step father, Joe Ray of Bush Prairie on No-vember 13, 1971. Articles state that somehow James and his friend got separated, and it would appear that James got lost. Three helicopters (Two from the Army) and more than fifty searchers scoured forty square miles for almost ten days. The Cowlitz County Sheri stated that he had used search dogs in the SAR. They did not find one piece of evidence indicating where he was located. There was nothing new to report on the Annis disappearance for almost a year.

James was a tenth grader at Battle Ground High School. He was last reported wearing a red rain-coat, something that should be easily seen from the air. He was carrying a 30-06 rifle with a four-power scope.

On November 5, 1972, hunters were in the region near Cinnamon Peak in Cowlitz County, approximately two miles from the Skamania County line (4 Miles from where last seen), and found what they believed to be human bones scattered in a wide area. The hunters left the area and notified the sheri The finding of the bones made worldwide news because this was the exact area that D. B. Cooper had parachuted out of a Northwest Airliner with two hundred thousand dollars on the eve of Thanksgiving 1971. The sheri mounted a huge e ort to find the remains. On November 6, Cowlitz deputies went into the area, three and a half miles north of Cougar near the Lewis River, two miles west of the county line and approximately one mile west of Ape Cave in a rugged and desolate area of the county. The team spent considerable time accumulating bones, clothing and a knife, Annis' deer tag and his hunting knife. The following day a press release indicated that the sheri had found the remains of James Annis. It was originally stated in the press that these may have been the remains of DB Cooper.

James had traveled four miles from the point he was separated from his stepfather. Helicopters and searchers did not find the young hunter, and he did not fire his rifle to make searchers aware of his position. It was never made clear what killed the hunter or how long the bones had been in the area. It was obvious from the wide-ranging area the bones were found animal predation was involved post death.

The big questions in this incident is why didn't three helicopters find James? Why didn't ground searchers find him inside the forty square mile search zone?

Donald G. Siskar

Missing: 7/10/73-3:30 p.m., Grass Mountain, WA

Age at disappearance: 18 years

Point of Separation* Canines*

Grass Mountain is located just ten miles east of Enumclaw and four miles south of the Howard Hanson Reservoir. This area has very thick and lush forests and is part of the headwaters for the Green River.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) is the arm of the government that manages this region of the Snoqualmie National Forest. The USFS does not have the number of employees necessary to keep trails pristine and maintained, thus they contract with groups that go into the forest and do the work. On July 10, 1973, one of those contract groups, the Neighborhood Youth Corp (NYC), was clearing debris high up the north side of Grass Mountain. At approximately 2:00 p.m., the work group was ending its day and started to walk down the trail toward the bus.

Donald Siskar was part of the nine-member NYC team that started down the mountain. Donald was in the middle of the group on the trail when they came to a switchback and the guys at the back of the line cut through the woods to the front of the line; this put Donald at the back. The group was about one and three-quarters miles from the bus when Donald went to the rear.

Once the group got to the bus, the men boarded, and the bus started to head toward home. The bus driver didn't immediately realize that Donald was missing, but eventually he did. The bus driver returned to the trailhead, and two group workers went back up the trail to the point of the switchback but never found Donald. Another member stopped a USFS truck and had him take him to the top of the mountain with the possibility Donald went uphill, back to the site. He wasn't found. The USFS sent three rangers up the hill and then called for more assistance. It was now 6:30 p.m. The three rangers eventually returned and stated they found nothing.

The King County sheri was called at 6:30 p.m. and took over as the primary law enforcement authority. The deputy determined that all of the men in the group were wearing work boots, but Donald was wearing cowboy boots. Searchers went up the trail to the switchback and attempted to find cowboy boot tracks, but they didn't.

The search for Donald was well organized and did have significant resources. Fifty-five ground searchers plus the USFS, the Boeing Company Amateur Radio Club, Explorer Scouts, the local ski patrol, 4x4 clubs, National Guard, German Shepherd Search Dogs of Washington, two helicopters, and multiple Bloodhound teams were on

the mountain for seven days looking for Donald.

I have read thousands of search and rescue reports from hundreds of agencies. The missing person report I was presented by King County was one of the most comprehensive e orts I've ever read.

In March 2012 Detective Tom Jensen met with Donald's father at his residence. Jensen was attempting to get a DNA swab from the father to place into the national database should Donald be found. The swab was obtained, and Albert Siskar answered questions about his son's disappearance. In the case file report was the father's statement about the area where his son was working: "Albert said that he was at the search area and the terrain was extremely rugged." It was also stated: "He doesn't believe Donald left the area. He believes that Donald got lost and died and his body was never found because of the terrain."

Summary

It is di icult to understand how Donald could've gotten lost on the trail he was hiking. This path is very wide and clear of vegetation. I do not believe there is any chance that while he was following his group that he could've voluntarily wandered and been lost.

The man was wearing a silver hardhat, jeans, and cowboy boots. None of the clothing was ever found. Bloodhounds never picked up a scent. This was a very tough case because there were no leads.

In the dozens of missing persons reports I've received from the National Park Service, I have never read about a NPS special agent conducting follow-up and obtaining a DNA swab from the victim's family members, ever. I applaud the deputy in this case going to the extra e ort to obtain the DNA swab.

You will find very little on the Internet about this case. Many of the supposed facts about this incident that are on the Internet are incorrect. The information on this case was taken directly from the King County sheri 's reports.

Jimmy Du y

Missing: 10/19/73, 2:15 p.m., Little Wenatchee Ridge, Wenatchee Lake, Wenatchee, WA

Age at disappearance: 2

Hunting« Point of Separation«

Disability

On October 19, 1973, James and Carol Du y parked their camper and truck in a clear-cut seven miles northeast of Lake Wenatchee in a location known as Little Wenatchee Ridge. While the entire family took a walk around the area of the camper, Little Jimmy Du y was misbehaving on the hike and Carol Du y hit her son for not keeping up with the group, per her own statement in sheri 's department reports. The family then headed back to the camper to put the kids down for a nap. Thirty-two-month-old Jimmy and eighteen- month-old Natalie were left in the back of the camper sleeping while James went hunting in the area and Carol took a walk.

After fifteen minutes of hunting the nearby clearcut, James returned

to the camper to check on the children and found them still asleep; Carol was still out on her walk but saw James check on the kids. He then circled the clear-cut where they were parked and joined his wife. When James and Carol were approximately 150 yards from their children, they heard a scream or screech come from the camper. They ran to a spot where they could see the camper and saw the camper door open. The parents ran to their vehicle and found the back door opened. Natalie and their two cats were still asleep inside, but Jimmy was nowhere in sight. James immediately checked the Caterpillar tracks beside the clear-cut, and Carol checked the road. They found nothing. The time at this point was approximately 2:15 p.m.

By 3:15 p.m. deputies from the Chelan County Sheri 's O ice had arrived and already notified SAR personnel. The deputies and forest service employees searched the soft ground near the camper but could not find any prints in the dirt roads that matched the boy's. At 4:20 p.m. James arrived back at the camper from searching and stated that he had not found the boy. At 4:25 p.m. deputies re-interviewed Carol and asked her again to explain the circumstances of the disappearance. She did. At 5:00 p.m. deputies interviewed James again, and he repeated the circumstances of the boy's disappearance. He stated that the sound he heard coming from the area of the camper could have been something similar to a baby's cry.

The following day canines were brought to the location and thoroughly searched the area. They found nothing.

For five days following Jimmy's disappearance, searchers performed a massive grid layout involving more than 150 men, including rescue units, SAR teams, and the sheri 's posse. Helicopters were also brought to the area to search cli s and small valleys. The search produced no evidence of Jimmy Du y's location. At 8:30 p.m. on October 24, the lead deputy from Chelan County called James aside. He told James that he didn't believe his story about his son's disappearance and thought the child had never been in the area. He also told James that he thought the child had been accidentally or intentionally killed and disposed of and that his story was a cover-up. James insisted his story was true and there was no cover-up. The deputy then asked him if his wife had a boyfriend, to which he replied, "Not that I know of."

At 11:30 the following morning, the formal search operations were terminated.

During the extensive follow-up conducted by the Chelan County Sheri 's O ice, one witness described Jimmy Du y as "retarded" and with a

very frail build. Most of the witnesses stated that they rarely saw the boy outside of the Du y's home. It's obvious from the reports that Chelan County did a very extensive follow-up by contacting the Du y's neighbors, friends, and child protective services. They also attempted to locate evidence of violence against Jimmy, but nothing was found. At one-point investigators requested that Carol and James Du y take a polygraph test. They agreed.

Twelve days after their son went missing in the mountains of Washington, James and Carol Du y were seated in a police interview room taking a polygraph in an e ort to clear their names. Polygraph experts from the Seattle Police Department were brought in to question the Du y's and administer the polygraph. Both parents took the polygraph simultaneously in di erent rooms. In a report written by N. Matzke and D. Gillespie of Seattle PD's polygraph unit, they stated the following after interviewing both parents: "Each subject was given a polygraph exam-ination and it is the opinion that Mr. and Mrs. Du y do not know the whereabouts of their son Jimmy nor did they conspire with each other to cause the disappearance." The passing of the polygraph hopefully focused the Chelan County Sheri 's O ice on finding Jimmy rather than building a case against his parents.

Case Summary

I was fortunate to get the Chelan County Sheri 's O ice to expend significant resources to get the case file on Jimmy Du y. A records supervisor took an interest in my request and spent hours looking through microfiche attempting to build a case file. Nobody had one inside the detective division; nobody even knew of the case. After more than a month, I was sent the complete case file of over 150 pages.

This is a truly fascinating case. Jimmy Du y was only slightly older than two. He was frail and could barely get into and out of the camper without assistance. The scream that the parents heard definitely came from the camper and was related to the disappearance. It's very odd that the scream heard by the parents 150 yards away didn't wake Natalie, who was sleeping in the camper or their cats.

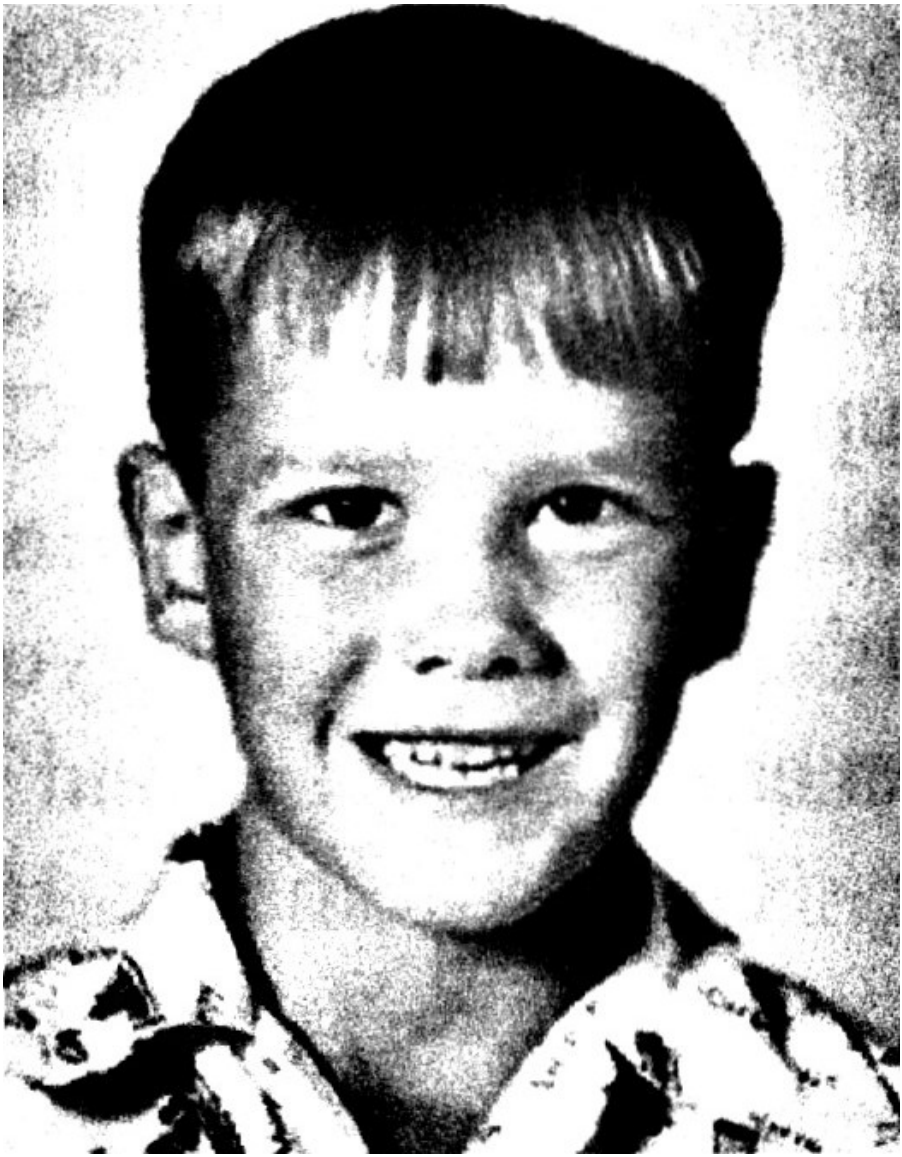
I am comfortable in saying that I'm 99 percent certain Jimmy was abducted. The parents were at the camper in a matter of minutes. They searched immediately but never found their boy. He had to have been abducted. The unusual part of this abduction is that the family was on a hunting trip; everyone in that area at that time of the year was most likely a hunter and was armed. Whoever took Jimmy Du y

was watching when the family took their walk and when James came back to check on the children. The perpetrator(s) waited for James and his wife to be at a safe enough distance and out of view to open the closed camper door, take Jimmy, and make a getaway. Where were they taking Jimmy, and how did they know they could successfully make their escape? How did they know that his parents wouldn't catch up to them?

None of the reports mentioned animal tracks in the area. All people and all vehicles that were in the area were later accounted for through follow-up by the sheri 's department. There is no way a thirty-two-month-old boy could escape the search e orts of professional trackers in the area where Jimmy was lost.

I thought it was a highly risky assertion by the lead Chelan County deputy to accuse James of fabricating facts about his son's disappearance, especially without documented and elaborated facts he could put in his report. I saw none. The frustration among the searchers and deputies was understandable after six days without finding any evidence of Jimmy. I don't blame the deputies for being frustrated, and without knowing that other cases very similar in nature have occurred consistently throughout the U.S. in the last seventy-five years, maybe that frustration and allegation against James could be excused. If that comment were made today, especially now knowing that the Du ys played no part in the disappearance, that deputy would be severely reprimanded for his conduct.

SAR reports on this incident indicated that personnel searched two miles out from the camper. That was not enough. Even considering Jimmy's age and frail build, hundreds of reports similar in nature indicate that a search of two miles out from the location of the event isn't su icient. The distance to search on an event such as this shouldn't be dictated by how far the child could walk, it should be dictated by how far an abductor could carry the victim.



Je rey Michael Bratcher

Missing: 06/15/74, Ocean City State Park, WA 3’9”, 45 lb.

Age at disappearance: 7

Point of Separation* Water* The Bratcher’s lived in Mesquite, Texas. Gayle, Je rey’s mother, decided to take him and his sib lings to the Washington coast for an early summer vacation.

On June 15, 1974, Jeffrey was playing with five other children in a section of Ocean City State Park. The kids knew they needed to be back in the area of the adults at 7:00 p.m. for dinner. As dinnertime got close, the kids started to take a trail back to their parents. Jeffrey decided to take a different path. He never arrived for dinner and was never seen again.

A segment of the law enforcement community believes Jeffrey got too close to the ocean and was swept out to sea; others believe he may have been abducted. It was determined that Jeffrey was last seen near the ranger station inside Ocean City State Park. In 1974 there was a $1,500 reward for information leading to Jeffrey's return.

David Taylor

Missing: 11/18/74—Success Cleaver, Mount Rainier National Park Age at Disappearance: 23 years

(12) National Park, Cluster Zone, National Park Ranger, Weather

When you research National Park Rangers who have gone missing, one name will come up: Paul Fugate from Chiricahua National Monument in Arizona. It's very doubtful you would ever hear about David Taylor.

On November 18, 1974, twenty-three-year-old National Park Ranger David Taylor, a native of Wooster, Ohio was with twenty-seven-year-old Carl Fabiani (another Ranger) on the

western base of Mount Rainier when they left to attempt a summit. Both men were incredibly fit, had adequate supplies, and knew the route they were taking.

The pair was making good progress until November 20, when they decided to stop at the 12,500-foot level and made their way to Success Cleaver. The November 22 edition of the Newark Advocate had this description: "The cleaver is a long rib of rotten volcanic rock rising almost to the summit of rainier." What happens next was outlined in the November 21 edition of the Daily Chronicle: "Fabiani told o icials that he and Taylor became separated (Point of separation) during a 'white out' at about 9500-foot level on Success Cleaver when visibility was lost due to blowing snow." Fabiani stated that he searched for his partner for several hours before he turned and started to make his way down the mountain. He took a route that ended with him on the west side of Mount Rainier walking through forests.

Fabiani said at various times that "Taylor must've fell." The fact is that he never saw his partner after they were separated. The National Park Service dispatched two highly skilled rescue mountaineering teams in an e ort to locate Taylor. Both teams were eventually turned back by blowing snow and high winds. They never found any evidence that Taylor was even on the mountain.

The cleaver is on the southwest corner of the mountain almost directly north of Longmire.

Various reports indicate that Taylor died from "traumatic injuries"

from snow or avalanche. When I read these statements, I was appalled. Again, David Taylor is not listed as missing, according to the National Park Service; he is listed as “presumed dead.” This is a classification that wipes there slate clean of the missing.

I cannot tell you the number of times I have documented cases in which someone disappears after others in their party lose sight of them.

We will never know what happened to David Taylor, but his story matches those of many who have disappeared on this 14,410-foot mountain.

It’s been 50 years and nothing associated with David has ever been found.

Steve Martin Missing: 08/16/75, noon, Petit Lake, Washington

Age at disappearance: 15

Point of Separation* Water* Weather*

Berry Picker

The North Central High School cross country team from Spokane, Washington, spent a week camping at Petit Lake, two miles from the Washington-Idaho border and five miles from Priest Lake, Idaho. The team was there to train by running the logging roads in the area.

At approximately noon on August 16, Steve Martin ran o —wearing his cross-country shoes, shorts, and shirt—and was never seen again. At approximately 4:30 p.m., the group realized Steve had not returned, and a search was initiated. The local sheri was called and the USFS responded.

The night Steve disappeared, a rain and fog hit the area around Petit Lake, making searching very di icult. Air searches were halted for two days because of the bad weather.

A portion of Steve's teammates told searchers that Steve may have left the trail momentarily to pick huckleberries. Searchers combed logging roads and trails in an e ort to find tracks, but none were found.

On August 19, 1975, Steve's mother, Lindy Martin, stated in the Spokane Daily, "If anybody took him from those roads and trails up there, I'm sure they did it by force." There were some rumors that maybe Steve voluntarily left the road or trails, but his mother didn't believe that.

The formal search for Steve lasted a week and failed to find a clue as to where the boy may be. There were many rumors that he ran o to California or Idaho, but all appeared to be untrue. Pend Oreille Sheri who ran the SAR had thrown significant resources into the e ort to locate Steve, including multiple dog teams, none had found a scent trail.

On July 14, 1976, two USFS employees were conducting a survey approximately two miles northeast of Petit Lake, and three hundred yards from the nearest trail, when they stumbled onto bones and clothing in extremely dense brush and heavy timber. The team found shorts, a shirt, and tennis shoes. They had found Steve Martin.

The Pend Oreille sheri stated that the bones were scattered across a forty-foot area, and his glasses were found twenty feet from his skull. The sheri stated that it appeared that Steve had gotten lost, panicked, and died of exposure. The location of the body was in Sema Meadows, an area that had one of the main logging roads in the area, a road that would be hard to miss in the middle of the meadow. The road in Sema Meadows is the main road that tuns to Petit Lake, the road that Steve had probably run.

Case Summary

There are many cases of young men disappearing in this area of the Washington and Idaho mountains. Steve's disappearance is definitely suspicious. If you read his mother's statements, she does not believe that her son would have voluntarily left the trails or roads. There is a possibility that Steve was picking huckleberries when he disappeared. If this was the case, Steve is yet another person who disappeared under suspicious circumstances related to berries.

Rodger Kerch

Missing: November 4, 1979- 4:00 pm, Crow Lake Age at Disappearance: 15 Years Old

Hunter* Cluster Zone* Point of Separation* Water* Weather* Point of Separation

Rodger Kerch was a student at Issaquah High School and lived with his mother in Issaquah. His parents were divorced, and his father lived in Puyallup.

On November 2, 1979, Rodger left with friends to hunt for the weekend in Crow Lake region, 15 miles northeast of Mount Rainier National Park. On Sunday morning, November 4, Rodger left camp to hunt alone, agreeing he'd be back in camp by dark for the three-hour drive home. Rodger never arrived, and his friends called the Yakima County Sheri .

The sheri took the disappearance seriously and immediately put deputies, search and rescue personnel, and volunteers into the mountains for the search. This November 9, 1979 article in the Tri-City Herald had details on the investigation, "Deputies said two helicopters from Fort Lewis were enlisted Wednesday and Thursday in the hunt for Rodger Kerch, who failed to rendezvous with companions late Sunday in the Crow Lake area, about ten miles east of Chinook Pass." The group was searching in the area of the Norse Peak

Wilderness, a wild and remote region of Washington. There are several lakes and creeks near the SAR.

Articles stated that the SAR faced rain and snow during the search and knew Rodger was dressed warmly in a down coat.

The SAR lasted a week, and they found nothing.

In December of 1979, the Kerch family had a memorial service for Rodger at the Community Baptist Church in Issaquah.

Steven Kelch

Missing: 09/05/85, Mount Rainier National Park

Age at disappearance: 28 years

Canines • Disability • National Park • Cluster Zone • Point of Separation

I wrote a story a few years back about a mentally challenged young adult that went on a field trip with the facility in which he was living. The man vanished on the trail and was never found. You will see some similarities with this story.

Steven Kelch was a 28-year-old diagnosed schizophrenic that was living at the Western State psychiatric facility in Lakewood, Washington. The hospital had been there since 1871 when the U.S. Army abandoned their fort and turned it into a facility to treat the mentally challenged. It has grown today to the largest state-run psychiatric hospital west of the Mississippi. They have 900 patients, 2,000 sta members, forty-four buildings on 763 acres.

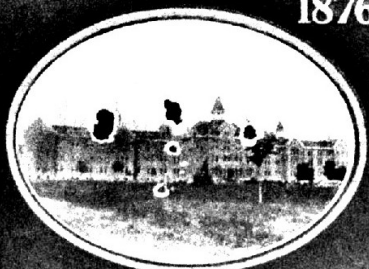
LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL MARKER

CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WA • 1996 •

ON THIS SITE STANDS

WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL HISTORICAL CEMETERY

1876 - 1953



Over 3,200 psychiatric patients from Western State Hospital were buried here from 1876 to 1953. Since then, burial has been elsewhere. The graves are marked with numbers for privacy reasons and the stigma of mental illness. These people worked on the award winning hospital farm and in other hospital areas and called the hospital "home." They were mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, children and many were veterans.

Dedicated to their memory by The Graves Concerns Association September 2003

May they rest in peace, with dignity and respect.

Pierce County • PARKS AND RECREATION •

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SEAL OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON • 1889 •

Western State Hospital Plaque

On September 5, 1985, Steven Kelch was asked to join a group of Western State Hospital patients for a 1-day field trip to Mount Rainier for a hike. In the morning hours, the group left by bus for the 50-mile ride to the national park. They went to the Carbon River area on the north side of the mountain and took a trail toward the Carbon Glacier. The first half of the hike went well. The group had lunch at their halfway point and then turned to walk downstream to the vehicles.

As the patients were hiking down the trail, something happened and is described in the September 10, 1985, edition of the Spokane Chronicle, “Cy Hentges, the park management assistant, said Steven Kelch, 28, was reported missing last Thursday on a hike back from the Carbon Glacier after hiking ahead of the rest of the group.” The number of hikers that vanish on a trail after getting ahead or falling behind a group is significant. Articles have been written about this specific aspect of the disappearances I have documented.

When counselors got back to the buses, they realized that Steven wasn’t there. They called the NPS for assistance. Park police arrived, covered the Carbon River trail area that first night, and then brought in multiple dog teams the following morning. This area is very thick and lush once you get o the trails. There are many people missing on that mountain; the numbers would amaze the public.

One thing to always remember about the e ort of a SAR, it is directly related to the pressure placed upon the searchers by family, friends, and politicians. If there is very little pressure applied, there will be very little e ort exuded.

I could not find one statement from Steven’s family members or any comments from state hospital o icials. This was one of the least covered disappearances by the press I have ever researched. This September 10, 1985, article in the Spokane Chronicle closed the book on this event, “A full-fledged search for a missing Western State Hospital patient has been discontinued after Rangers, and six dog teams were unable to find any trace of the man.” The last comment by the ranger was that they found nothing.

The canines were on scene quickly, and there was no reported precipitation in the region to knock down the odor on the trail. It’s quite a conundrum that six canine teams couldn’t pick up a scent. There was no mention if the park service brought in professional

trackers or helicopters.

People missing that have diagnosed mental health issues pose a significant concern for searchers. They don't act like an average missing person and thus can't be searched for the same way. Some of these people will hide from searchers. If they are hiding, dogs should sni them out. It is irrelevant if you have a mental health disability or a physical deformity, canines don't care, and it doesn't a ect their abilities to find you.

I have no idea why Steven Kelch was never found.

Tom Klein

Missing: 09/08/86, Entiat Drainage, Phelps Creek Trailhead, Chelan County, WA

Age at disappearance: 27

Water*

The disappearance of Tom Klein was not immediately reported. Klein was on a three-day hike in the Phelps Creek area of Chelan County. Friends in Seattle were not exactly sure where he was going and thus couldn't give searchers accurate information. The county sheri was not notified until September 11,1986, that Tom was missing. The SAR teams had spent three days searching and were about to give up when they found his vehicle at the Phelps Creek Trailhead.

Once searchers found Tom's car, the e orts to find him were upgraded. Chelan County utilized their helicopter, along with helicopters from Fairchild Air Force Base, to search. Searchers looked around Mount Maude, Entiat Drainage, and the Leavenworth area south of Phelps Creek. After almost one week, search parties pulled out of the area and gave up looking for the missing man. Tom Klein has not been found.

Very Little information was available in this case.

James Kampe

Missing: 10/27/90 at 1:00 p.m.—Muir Snowfield, Mount Rainier, WA Age at Disappearance: 38 years

(13) National Park, Cluster Zone, Weather, Canines

Every article I reviewed for this story indicated that James Kampe was a very athletic man who enjoyed skiing and backpacking. The Boeing Corporation in Seattle employed him, but his roots were in Williamston, Michigan (sixty miles west of Lake Saint Clair and the Great Lakes), where his family still lived. On October 27, 1990, Jim and his friends Gordon Thompson, Stan Davis, and Kirk Anderson embarked on the trip. Thompson, Davis, and Jim had skied this area several times in the past, but Anderson was new to the area. They were using cross-country skis as they made their way up the Muir Snowfield on the side of Mount Rainier at the 8,500-foot level. Jim was leading the group.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., something quite unexpected happened, as is described in this November 6, 1990, quote from the Spokesman-Review: Despite a light snow the skiers could see several hundred feet ahead Davis said. Kampe was about 300 feet in front of Davis when the snowstorm hit. “We were keeping eye contact, we weren’t that far apart,” Davis said. “I stopped. I was kind of waiting for him to look at me. The clouds just closed in. Everything was white.” Davis stayed in place about 10 minutes, waiting for Kampe to come back down. Then he found Anderson and Thompson and the three waited 45 minutes longer. They searched for Kampe in the parking lot and then began a wider search.

The group notified the National Park Service, who initiated a search for Jim. The park service searched for seven days, as described in the November 16, 1990, edition of the Lansing Journal: “All the next week, rangers and volunteer search teams scoured the area, hampered by poor weather and the vast terrain. Search helicopters and dogs were used.” There were many ideas about what may have happened to Jim. The primary theory passed by the media was that he fell in a crevasse or off a cliff. They said he probably would be found the following summer. Jim’s dad, Dwight Kampe, traveled from Michigan to the park and made his way to the snowfield to see where his son had vanished. In the same Lansing Journal article noted above, Dwight was mentioned: “Although search teams never found a trace of the missing

man, his father is convinced it was time to call off the search. ‘Everything we had heard indicated they had done a very thorough job,’ he said. ‘You just have to accept it as being the way things are.’”

Start paying attention to how many times people have vanished on Mount Rainier through sudden snowstorms, whiteouts, and by being separated.

Stefan Bissert

Missing 01/20/92-p.m., Olympic National Park, WA

Age at disappearance: 23 years Intellect* Cluster Zone* Water* Point of Separation In the scope of this book, you will read about a series of very intelligent people who vanished, some never to be found. This is a story about a brilliant young man from Bad Oeynhausen, Germany who was part of a foreign student exchange program between the

University of Stuttgart and Oregon State University.

Olympic National Park is probably one of the biggest parks in the United States. The vast majority of it is never visited. The park has very rugged areas, an extremely diverse interior, and wildlife that would amaze the average visitor. There are trails in the park, but the majority of visitors are unwilling to pay the price to get to lonely locations of the interior. If you wanted to go to a national park and escape from crowds, I would head for Olympic.

Stefan Bissert was a physics graduate student studying in Corvallis and visiting Olympic National Park with fellow German foreign exchange student Gerd Forstmann. The men had arrived at the park to hike the trails and enjoy the beauty. The pair had hiked from Soleduck to Deer Lake. They decided to separate as Bissert headed across the mountains to the Hoh River Valley and downhill to the Hoh Ranger Station. Stefan never arrived, and Gerd contacted local rangers.

The search for Stefan started quickly and was comprehensive. The second day into the e ort to locate the hiker, snow started to fall and continued for several days. Helicopters took to the sky and found that the route Stefan had taken had had several avalanches. After six days and continual snowfall, ground searchers and canines, the park services terminated their efforts to find the German national. On May 16, 1992, there was a secondary search for the man, which was completed after local snowmelt. Searchers still did not find any evidence of Stefan being on the mountain.

Stefan wasn't your average smart college student; he was a Fulbright Scholar. He wasn't studying just any normal college topic; he was a physics major. You are going to see that many brilliant people have vanished, and specifically, several of these people were involved in physics and every physicist that I have chronicled in my books that disappeared were German. One of the cases was highlighted in my documentary, Missing 411 The UFO Connection. In that case, UFOs were reported in the area the physicist disappeared. I find this a very, very strange coinci-dence.

Stefan's parents traveled to the United States and were on the scene during some of the search e orts. His body was never found.

In May 2017 there was an article in the Peninsula Daily News about search protocols and Olympic National Park. The paper filed a Freedom of Information Act request for park specific search protocols. Acting assistant Superintendent Brian Winter stated that the park did

not have these documents and to his knowledge, never had them. He stated that he did not know why the park did not have this. National Parks are required to make a needs assessment every 5-years and prepare a SAR plan. My question, how many other parks do not have a plan?

Paige Adriance

Missing 07/03/92-3:00 p.m., Boardman Lake, WA Age at disappearance: 8 years

Point of Separation* Water* Weather* Berry Picker* Previously Searched

Reid Adriance took his eight-year-old daughter Paige on a camping trip to an area approximately eighteen miles east of Granite Falls. At 3:00 p.m. Reid was hiking with his daughter on the Boardman Lake Trail when she decided she wanted to move faster and got ahead of him. After several hundred yards, Reid realized he could not find his daughter and started calling for her. He did not get a response. Reid went back to their campsite and called law enforcement for assistance.

The Seattle Mountain Search and Rescue group responded and started to look for the young girl. A July 6 article in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News reported the following: “Searchers worked until about midnight Friday, finding only the girl’s pack, Wood- all said. The search was halted at about 5pm because of heavy rain. Rain hampered the search Sunday, but crews of about 50 persevered until she was found.” They located Paige at noon on Sunday, forty-five hours after she vanished. They located her in a steep valley near a creek, just one mile from their campsite.

Paige stated that she ate berries while she was lost. Searchers were interviewed about finding Paige and made the following statement (from the same article that was quoted earlier): “The girl was found in an area that had been previously searched, Wood- all said.”

Paige disappeared on a very well-established trail. There could be no mistake about where the trail went. Many children disappear when they are in front of or behind their parents, but out of sight. How could Paige have gotten so far from her dad that she couldn’t hear his calls? How could searchers have missed her when they passed through the location where she was eventually found?

During the press conference, Paige dozed o several times. The Adriance family is very lucky to have their daughter back alive.

One of our profile points is the finding of a missing person in an area that had been previously searched. My primary question, was the victim there when searchers were on site?

Bill McKinnon

Missing: 02/14/93-p.m., Church Mountain, WA Age at disappearance: 28 years

Point of Separation* Canines* Weather*

The location of this disappearance is two miles south of the Canadian border, ten miles north of Mount Baker, one mile north of the Nooksack River, and just on the fringe of the North Cascades National

Park. This is a very thick and lush area. Church Mountain has an approximate elevation of 6,200 feet.

Bill was a student at Western Washington University in Bellingham majoring in French and geology. He and his roommate, Eric Hals, had planned a trip to the mountain pending good weather. On April 14, 1993, Eric woke Bill and stated that they had the weather needed for a climb up the mountain. This was not a new e ort for the pair; they had done it in past seasons. The roommates met a group at the trailhead, nearing two thousand feet in elevation, and started the climb to 4,200 feet. It was at this point the group encountered snow, and it appeared to get a lot deeper quickly. Bill realized that he wasn't dressed for that much snow and encouraged the group to go on, saying he'd wait.

The climbing group eventually made it back down to where they last saw Bill; he wasn't there. The group thought they'd find him at the parking lot; he wasn't there. It was at this point that people started to get worried, and phone calls were made. Late on that first night, Eric called law enforcement and reported Bill missing.

There was an extensive five-day search for Bill McKinnon that included SAR teams from Canada and the United States, army helicopters with FLIR, and canines. Searchers did find Bill's tracks heading up the trail to where he had separated from the group, but no tracks heading back downhill.

Bill was a smart and capable climber who had a high level of common sense, exampled by him deciding not to go further because he wasn't dressed appropriately.

During the five-day search, Bill's family conferred with a psychic, who stated that Bill was injured and in a location where you would not normally look. After hearing the psychic's report, SAR members looked everywhere within a two-mile radius where a person could hide; they found nothing.

During the search e ort, it started to snow and continued to snow for the next three weeks, essentially terminating all search e orts.

Bill's family and law enforcement did consider the possibility of abduction. None of the possibilities of what happened to Bill made any sense. He wasn't going downhill—no tracks. He didn't go uphill any farther—no tracks. On May 8, 1993, the Whatcom County sheri 's o ice attempted one last search. They found nothing.

I did make a request to the Whatcom County sheri ’s department for a copy of all reports associated with the disappearance of Bill McKinnon. Here was their response:

Dear Mr. Paulides,

I am writing this letter in reference to your public disclosure request of August 21 involving Mr. William McKinnon. Unfortunately, our records for that particular event have been purged and are no longer available.

Tara Tienhaara

Whatcom County Sheri ’s Department

I followed this up with an e-mail inquiring why they would purge an active case file. Here is their response:

Hi Dave,

Per Washington State Retention Schedules, we did not retain this report. We keep reports for 5 years only. I am not aware of anywhere else you could obtain a copy of this report.

Tara Tienhaara

Whatcom County Sheri ’s O ice

Summary

If in fact the state of Washington only requires the retention of reports on active case files for five years, this is an abomination. How can a law enforcement agency throw away the facts behind someone’s disappearance? Where is law enforcement’s accountability? We might need federal legislation that requires all agencies to keep missing person reports until the individual is found.

It is truly hard to believe that Bill has never been located.

Bill was a black man, one of the very, very few I have ever documented that was lost in the wilderness.

Bryce Florian Herda

Missing: 04/09/95, Neah Bay, WA

Age at disappearance: 6 4', 60 lb.

Cluster Zone* Point of Separation* Water* Cluster Zone

Neah Bay is located in the far western section of Washington, adjacent to Olympic National Park. This community is quite isolated because it's at the end of a long point of land. The community of Neah Bay has approximately twelve streets and sits on a beautiful harbor that two hundred commercial and sport-fishing vessels call home. The city of Neah Bay is the center point of the Makah Indian Reservation. The

population of Neah Bay is listed at 794. On April 9, 1995, Bryce Herda and his family were walking on the Shi Shi trail inside the reservation. Bryce was a Native American, and his grandfather was the reservation police chief. Bryce and his family were walking adjacent to the beach when the trail became too steep for him to keep up. The family told him they would meet him at the beach after they walked the loop. Bryce never arrived at the meeting location and was never seen again.

Bryce's grandfather orchestrated a major search that included the Clallam County Sheri 's O ice. The Shi Shi trail is in a very isolated area, especially in April, without significant vehicular tra ic or beachcombers. The Pacific Coast in this region is very rugged, with large rocks and rough water. There are numerous small lakes, creeks, and rivers in this area, and heavy forests and woods are quite close. Directly south of this location is the Quinault Indian Reservation and more isolated and desolate areas.

Bryce was never found.

Blair Grandstrom

Missing 06/03/1995-3:00 a.m., Bellingham, WA Age at disappearance: 20 years

Water* Point of Separation* Unknown Cause of Death

Western Washington University is the setting for the Blair Grandstrom and Dwight Clark cases. These cases were highlighted in Missing 411 A Sobering Coincidence. The school sits in the small coastal town of Bellingham, which is approximately a forty-five-minute car ride south of the Canadian border and approximately two hours north of Seattle. Western Washington University boasts 15,000 students, of which 96 percent are undergraduates. Forty-four percent of the student population is male, and 90 percent are residents of Washington.

Bellingham is the northernmost city in the lower forty-eight United States with a population of about 50,000 or more. The coastal community has 80,800 residents and claims to have the easiest access to the San Juan Islands and the Cascade Mountains of any northern city. According to the 2010 census, Bellingham was the thirteenth largest city in the state of Washington.

Even in continuing with the theme of young men who died under unusual circumstances in water, these two cases stick out as very strange. Both men lived within feet of each other and ended up dead

just feet from each other. Both fit the model of a cluster.

Here are the details on Blair's disappearance.

When I first stumbled onto these cases, I couldn't believe how factually similar they were. If you have incidents that are close in calendar dates, they will draw attention. If you spread the cases by ten to fifteen years, people start to forget, witnesses move, and students graduate. The disappearances of Grandstrom and Clark were fifteen years apart.

Blair lived his life in Bellevue, Washington, a town just east of Seattle. His father was a Renton School District math teacher, and his mother was a sta assistant for the Bellevue School District. Megan Grandstrom was Blair's sister and a University of Washington graduate.

Blair graduated from Sammamish High School and made the decision to attend Western Washington University and major in auto design. Blair enjoyed the campus and was doing well in his studies. On June 2, 1995, Blair went with friends to a party just o campus. There was alcohol at the party, and it was reported that Blair had been drinking. At approximately 3:00 a.m., he told his friends that he was walking back to his room. This was the last time he was seen alive.

Blair was reported missing, and a large search was started immediately. The neighborhoods of the campus and downtown area were thoroughly covered, and nothing of evidentiary value was located. Hundreds of leaflets were distributed throughout the city notifying the public of the disappearance.

On June 7, 1995, Blair's body was recovered under highly unusual circumstances as is described in the June 9, 1995, edition of the Seattle Times: "Police still don't know how Blair Grandstrom of Bellevue, whose body was found in a waste water treatment lagoon (in Bellingham Bay) Wednesday, died. The decomposed body of the 20-year-old Western Washing-ton University student was found by a worker at the Georgia Pacific West Lagoon during routine maintenance at about 10:00 a.m. Bellingham Police Lt. Rick Sucee said an autopsy was inconclusive. There were no signs of trauma or injuries, he said, and results of toxicology tests will take weeks. However, Whatcom County Medical Examiner Dr. Gary Goldfogel said Grandstrom's blood-alcohol level was 'substantially above the legal limit of intoxication.'"

Police stated that Blair would've had to climb over two fences to get

to the water, or enter an area away from the bay near a breakwater. Imagine the scene: a bay that Blair had seen hundreds of times while he was a student. A polluted bay filled with foam and dark water. Who would ever jump into that bay of muck?

If I were writing a fictional novel about these incidents, nobody would believe it. The reality of these stories are all true.

John Devine

Missing: September 6, 1997, Mt Baldy, Olympic National Park

Age at Disappearance: 73 Years old

Disability* Cluster Zone* Point of Separation

During my years of investigating missing people, I have discovered a substantial number of air-craft crashes associated with the SAR. Unfortunately, a helicopter crash was related to this incident.

On September 5, 1997, 73-year-old Sequim resident John Devine and a friend (Greg Blazer) decided to enter the Olympic National Forest and hike toward the base of Mount Baldy, where they established a camp.

Mount Baldy is at the far northern edge of Olympic National Park and is a windswept summit of 6,827 feet. There are two main routes to the top. Once you reach the summit, the view is epic. You can see Vancouver Island and the mountains inside the park; it's a gorgeous perspective.

John and Greg were camping outside the park. On September 6, John told Greg he would climb Mount Baldy by taking the Grey Wolf Ridge route. This trail was a 7.2-mile roundtrip. People who knew John stated he was in excellent condition but did have one disability, as is described in this September 13, 1997 article in the Spokesman-Review, "Devine was in excellent physical condition although legally blind in one eye, park o icials said. He had hiked long distances in the Olympics before." Greg stated that John was last seen on that trail in the afternoon, making progress toward the summit. John told Greg he would return that night, but he never made it back.

Greg Blazer realized something profound happened when Devine didn't arrive at camp. The Kit-titas County Sheri , National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service were notified.

Search under way In Olympic National Park for Sequim man

The National Park Service led the SAR looking for John Devine. They obtained ground searchers from Clallam, Je erson, and Kittitas Counties and air support from the Civil Air Patrol. The park also had a contract with Heli-Jet Corporation in Port Angeles to fly search and rescue on a contract basis.

On September 12, HeliJet supplied a helicopter in the search for John. The pilot of the copter was Kevin Johnson, 35 years old. He had flown the Bell 205 Al on September 11 from Eugene, Oregon, to Port Angeles to reposition the craft for the search.

On the 12th, Kevin was assigned to pick up seven passengers, including park personnel, searchers, and one search dog near the base of Mount Baldy. They were in the area of the head of Slide Creek that drains Mount Baldy. Visibility was less than 1/4 mile with light rain. The helicopter was loaded, took o , and disappeared into the clouds.

Others heard a crash and avalanche as the helo flew into the clouds. The Bell Helicopter hit the side of Mount Baldy at the 5,910' elevation, caused a small avalanche, and tumbled down the side of the mountain. Three people were killed in the crash, including Kevin. One of the survivors was the search dog, "Derrick," a Rottweiler owned by its handler, Rita Monahan. Rita was committed entirely to SAR and died doing what she loved.

Search helicopter crash kills 3

The Bell helicopter crash and the death of searchers were a massive blow to the SAR e ort.

The search for John Devine persevered. The Civil Air Patrol continued to search from the air, and ground pounders were still searching the Grey Wolf Ridge Trail area and the mountain's summit.

The primary search for Mr. Devine was terminated on September 15.

Casual searches were done on an ongoing basis as park personnel went into the area where he was last seen.

After two decades, John Devine and his equipment have yet to be located. This is one of the more bizarre cases. John loved hiking in Olympic National Park; he was in excellent physical condition and knew the area he was walking. The weather at the time he was hiking was good, and there were no known dangers on his path. Oddly, there

was also nobody on the route John was walking, so there were no witnesses to what may have happened.

Harry Stanley March Jr.

Missing: 10/07/97—Snohomish County, WA Age at Disappearance: 76 years

• Canines, Mushroom Picker, Medical Condition, Possible German Origin, Intellect« Cluster Zone«

I'll keep saying this over and over: we study history for a reason. It is extremely doubtful that this case will be in any newspaper or magazine article talking about the similarities with a case that happened just thirty-one miles east. Both victims were teachers. Both were mushroom pickers; one was seventy-six, and the other was seventy-nine. There were extensive searches for both people, and they were never found. Both individuals were members of the Puget Sound Mycological Society, and in fact, Harry March had designed its logo.

I made a public request through the Snohomish County Sheri for reports associated with Harry Stanley March Jr.'s disappearance. My request was denied, as the sheri 's o ice said this was an active case file. This was the first time any jurisdiction in the state of Washington had denied me access to a missing-person file, active or not. I called the detective division and was referred to Snohomish Sheri Investigator Jim Schar . He was very generous with his time and o ered to give me all the details inside the missing-person report and SAR reports. The factual details I was able to obtain di er significantly from many online statements about Harry's disappearance.

Hany March Jr. was a retired teacher with a master's degree who was living with his wife on Bear Creek Road in Woodinville, Washington. I was told that Harty's wife was much younger than he was and believed at the time that he vanished while seeing another woman.

On October 7, 1997, Harry drove his 1990 brown Dodge pickup to milepost four on Sultan Basin Road in Snohomish County. This place is approximately thirty air miles northeast of Harry's residence. He made the trip to Sultan, Washington, to go mushroom picking. He parked the truck at milepost four; entered the thick, lush forest; and walked into oblivion. It should be stated here that we have designated mushroom pickers as a defined sub group of the missing. There are many mushroom pickers who have vanished.

Detective Schar clarified that a neighbor, Mike Brown, living in the

area where Harry had parked the truck eventually realized it had been there for two to three days and called the sheri . The responding deputy ran the registration and ended up calling Harry's house and speaking to his wife. She confirmed that he had left on October 7 to go mushrooming and hadn't come back. She said it was her belief that he might have gone to his girlfriend's. Detective Schar said he had contacted the daughter of the girlfriend, who had confirmed that Harry never visited after he disappeared in the woods. Harry was 76-years-old and had a girlfriend, he must've been healthy and active.

The report indicated that Harry took medication for a bad heart. Many of the people I write about have either a disability or some type of medical condition.

The Snohomish County Sheri took command of the SAR. They asked for and received SAR teams from Lewis, Pearce, King, and Kitsap counties. They immediately dispatched a hasty team that included two canine teams and two trackers. That initial response obtained no results, and they then put up the department's helicopter and formulated a multiday grid search of the area. There were various dog teams in the search area almost every day the SAR was un-derway. They were also able to obtain the assistance of the Pacific Northwest Trackers, who also found nothing. On October 12 at 7:00 p.m., the four-day search for Harry was terminated with nothing found. There were notes in the file that, in 1999, a bloodhound went back into the area searching for remains and again found nothing.

At the time Harry went into the area on Sultan Road, the woods in this area were very thick. Since the disappearance, the exact spot where Harry disappeared has been clear-cut (logged), and there were no remains found in the area. The property belonged to the state of Washington at the time. O icials searched Harry's truck, and there was nothing noted in the report that would indicate anything unusual.

Ancestry.com stated that the name "March" was from England, Wales, or Scotland; then they had this statement: "from Anglo-Norman French marche boundary (of Germanic origin; compare Mark 2)." As a huge coincidence, the other mushroom picker missing just east of where Harry vanished was also German.

I often get asked if I believe in coincidences. There have been hundreds of times during my research into missing people that I have been overwhelmed by the coincidences. Are these all a fluke? I can honestly say I do not think I am gullible. I can also say there has to be some underlying connection to all these cases that is deeper and more

important than what I have identified to this point.

Raymond Lee Matlock Missing: 11/07/98, Raymond, WA 5’9”, 165 lb.

Age at disappearance: 28

Hunter* Water* Point of Separation* Weather

Raymond Matlock enjoyed the outdoors and, specifically, elk hunting. He was also chasing his dream of being a commercial diver. On September 7, 1998, Raymond went to the area of State Route 101 at the Bone River to go elk hunting. It was a remote area just five miles from his hometown, Raymond, Washington. He was hunting with two friends, got separated and disappeared. His friends called law enforcement. The search lasted several days and was eventually terminated because of heavy rain. Thirty days after the original search was stopped, law enforcement brought in cadaver dogs, they found nothing.

Raymond got separated from his hunting companions and was never seen again. His companions had performed an extensive search for Raymond before they notified law enforcement. There was a large search and the only thing that was found was his hat.

The Pacific County Sheri ’s O ice is the lead law enforcement agency on this case.

On December 3, 1998, an American couple was cruising on their boat five miles from San Juan Point near Point Renfrew o Vancouver Island and spotted a body in the water. The Coast Guard in Neah Bay was dispatched and recovered the body and delivered it to Vancouver Island authorities. The remains went to the Sooke RCMP.

The RCMP attempted to identify the body, but fingerprints were impossible to obtain. They could not locate a missing person report that matched what they had recovered. The body was eventually buried at the Saanich Royal Oak Burial Park, unidentified.

The body was given identity 98-174-0199. He was given the date of death of November 19, 1998. One of the identifying features on the body was a missing tooth. It was the missing tooth, and later a t-shirt that led to the identity of the body as Raymond and it helped that his name was in NAMUS. The match was confirmed on December 21, 2016. He was found 170 miles north of where he went missing.

The location of Raymond’s body is a stunner to me. I did do research and it appears that ocean currents could possibly take a body north from the coastal region near Raymond, Washington. The body would have to make it to Neah Bay and then go west paralleling the Vancouver Island coast until it was recovered, remarkable. No shark

predation was apparent on the body, surprising.

The Washington Coast adjacent to the Juan De Fuca Strait has many missing males. To find Raymond in the Strait is an interesting location to discover the body. I acknowledge the huge effort the BC coroner made to identify Raymond's body. I hope his family was comforted in some way to understand the circumstances surrounding his death. Dr. William Tietjen

Missing: 06/20/99 at 5:30 p.m.—Muir Snowfield, Mount Rainier, WA
Age at Disappearance: 27 years

Cluster Zone* Physician* Weather* Intellect

Doctor William Tietjen was a brilliant young physician. He had just graduated as the valedictorian from his medical school at Emory University. William had just arrived from his home in Georgia and was scheduled to start his job in internal medicine at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. On June 20, 1999, William decided to take a hike and do some snowboarding. He drove to the Paradise Ranger Station on the south side of Mount Rainier and started up the trail to the Muir Snowfield. He made it to the Muir Hut, as is explained in the July 21, 2001, article in the Pantagraph: "Tietjen, a 27-year- old doctor, left Camp Muir at the 10,000-foot level on June 20, 1999. Despite drizzle, fog and 42- degree temperature, Tietjen declined an invitation from a park ranger to join a group hiking down from the camp because he wanted to snowboard, park o icials said." There were other articles that described the conditions as "whiteout." William never made it to Paradise, and a search was initiated.

The National Park Service used every resource available in their attempt to find the physician. One article stated that it snowed six inches near Camp Muir, and this restricted search e orts. After seven days of looking through the snowfield for the doctor, the e ort to locate him was terminated. NPS had committed eight teams of rangers, and many volunteers had looked through twelve square miles and found nothing to show he was on the mountain. Rain and fog caused very limited use of helicopters during the search e ort.

Nothing new happened with regard to William until two climbers went missing on Mount Rainier. A helicopter crew flying the area happened to see a body beneath a waterfall on the edge of the Nisqually Glacier, which sits just west of the snowfield. The body was

recovered at a 5,800-foot elevation, but William was last seen at ten thousand feet. The trailhead at Paradise is at 5,400 feet. How did he manage to get almost the entire way down to the trailhead and then fall victim to something deadly? It's possible that more than two years of drainage water dragged him down the mountain, I guess.

One ranger stated in a newspaper article that if Mount Rainier had a Bermuda Triangle, it would be the Muir Snowfield. Keep that rangers statement in your memory banks!

Joseph Wood Jr.

Missing 07/08/99-2 p.m., Mount Rainier National Park, WA

Age at Disappearance: 34 years

**FOIA files and reports from the National Park Service were received, and they assisted in the writing of this case.

• Water« Point of Separation« Intellect« Cluster Zone

Joseph Wood Jr. was born in a location that couldn't have been much further from Mount Rainier National Park and still be in the continental United States: New York. Joe was born to Joseph Wood Sr. and Elizabeth; he had one sister, Pamela. The boy was raised in a borough of New York called Bay Chester. Joe was a very good student and enjoyed nature, especially bird watching. His enjoyment of the outdoors caused him to enlist with the Boy Scouts, where he slowly elevated through the ranks until he reached the highest scouting degree, Eagle Scout.

Joseph Wood was fortunate to be able to attend Riverdale Country School, from where he graduated and applied to two prestigious universities. He was accepted at Harvard and Yale, and eventually chose Yale. The young man was interested in journalism and started to migrate toward that path, eventually graduating from Yale with honors. He applied for a 1990 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, which he used to study his African heritage by traveling to Ghana, and he eventually wrote of those travels in his book Blood Whispers and Color Lines. He returned from Ghana and eventually received an editorial job with the newsweekly Village Voice, where he wrote articles that appeared in some of the most prestigious papers in New York City. In 1996 Joe left the Voice and took another job as editor at the book publishing company The New Press. Joseph Wood Jr. was a brilliant writer and editor and was well known in publishing circles in New York.

On July 7, 1999, Joe traveled across the United States to Seattle to attend "Unity 99," a national conference of eight thousand minority journalists. Wood arrived at his hotel and had dinner with friends. He mentioned that he was traveling to Mount Rainier the following day to bird watch. He said he'd get up early to attend a news conference breakfast for presidential candidate Bill Bradley and then drive to the park.

Joe drove his rented Mercury Marquis and made the trip to Mount Rainier National Park. A receipt later found in the car shows that he

paid for entry at the Nisqually entrance at 12:29 p.m. He drove to the Longmire parking area and started his trek for watching birds as he headed toward Mildred Point. Sometime near 2 p.m., Joe was walking the trail and came across fellow hiker Bruce Gaumond. Bruce stated that he met Joe on the Rampart Ridge Trail at an altitude nearing 4,800 feet. The two compared notes of what birds they had seen, and then Joe asked how much further the trail went. Bruce told him that it continued up for another five to ten minutes and then stopped because of snow and a questionable snow bridge. This was the last human contact that was ever reported with Joseph Wood Jr. Joe continued on up the trail, and Bruce went walking downhill.

The Longmire parking lot and the Ramparts Ridge Trail are at the southwestern side of the mountain with the trail crossing Pearl and Devil's Dream Creeks. The trail is just above the Cougar Rock campground. Once you crest at 4,800 feet, the trail travels to the west of four small lakes, one being Squaw Lake, and then straddles a small valley with dozens of bodies of water. Back at the conference, Somini Sengupta, a New York Times reporter and former girlfriend of Joe's, was also attending. Two days after Joe drove to the mountain, Somini was extremely concerned that he hadn't returned to his room and wasn't answering his cell phone. She contacted authorities and filed a missing-persons report. On Monday, park o icials located Joe's car in the Longmire lot. NPS started to organize a search but also realized that two feet of snow that had existed at the time Joe was hiking had been melting and was now just a muddy trail. Any possible prints or clues that Joe may be still in the area were probably washed away.

The National Park Service had a di icult time understanding exactly where Joe may have been, as he hadn't told anyone where he was hiking. This area of the park does not have a lengthy history of disappearances and is probably one of the few areas where people rarely go missing. The higher elevations of the mountain can be treacherous, but this region was always considered one of the safer places to hike.

The 1999 winter recorded the third-heaviest snowfall in park history, and this left behind large drifts of snow and ice throughout the mountain. Searchers were scoring a ten-square-mile area looking for Joe when they got their first break. It was on July 15 that Bruce Gaumond saw an article in the paper about Joe being missing and came forward, explaining where he saw Joe and describing the conversation they had had. This gave searchers a better understanding of where to center their e orts. On Friday, July 16, just as searchers were focusing their e orts, rain started to fall inside the primary search

area. Rescuers were slowing down their e orts and starting to believe that Joe couldn't have survived in the inclement conditions. They explained their feelings to family members.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood contacted the White House and Washington governor Gary Locke, asking for continued search e orts and more aerial support. On July 18, the National Park Service held a press conference indicating why they were scaling back e orts and stating it was their belief that Joe had su ered some type of catastrophic accident. A July 17 article in the Village Voice stated the following, just after the NPS stated they wanted to reduce search e orts: "Still alternative theories lingered: what if Wood had been abducted? Could it have been murder?"

The National Park Service reacted to the public pressure and put thirty-eight searchers, five search dogs, and multiple aircraft into the air. The dogs never picked up a scent, the airplanes saw nothing of value, and the ground teams did not find tracks.

Many of the articles and authors addressing Joe's disappearance have stated that Joe Wood's case is one of the most puzzling, for many reasons. Joe is one of the very few black men that I have found that went missing and fit the criteria in the books, and Joe was the first black male to ever disappear in Mount Rainier National Park. Most people who do vanish in Mount Rainier have gone missing at higher elevations, but a few have seen their demise lower. People must remember that Joe was a very, very intelligent man and an Eagle Scout. Just prior to departing from his meeting with Bruce Gaumond, Bruce advised him of a dangerous snow bridge. The park service jumped on that as the cause of the disappearance, yet they never mentioned finding any evidence of a broken bridge or of finding Joe's clothing in any of the nearby creeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wood Sr. have publicly stated that they feel there is some type of foul play at work in Joe's disappearance. The park service never found any of Joe's remains.

Joe Wood Jr. disappeared on a clear day in a national public park while walking a known trail: where did he go? Joe is one of only a small handful of black Americans that I have discovered to disappear under the criteria of the project.

Summary

Joe's case bothers me a lot. The man was not doing any high-risk

activity; he was walking a known trail. He had met a fellow hiker, had an upbeat conversation, and was bird watching.

Eagle Scouts go through significant training, which includes outdoor experiences. It is a major milestone in a person's life to receive this distinct honor. The experience and knowledge gained through this program stays with you a lifetime. The fact that someone as intelligent, knowledgeable, and healthy as Joe Wood could disappear under the conditions explained is truly mind-boggling.

Chris Hartonas

Age at Disappearance: 40 years

Raymond Vakili

Age at Disappearance: 48 years

Missing: 11/05/99—Camp Muir, Mount Rainier, WA • Cluster Zone* Weather* Canines* Double Disappearance

The area of this incident is the Muir Snowfield and the Muir Hut on the south side of Mount Rainier. The route to the hut starts at Paradise, and the bottom portion of the trail was used in the 1930s as a golf course and in the 1970s as a ski area. The trail starts at fifty-four hundred feet, and the hut is located at 10,188 feet. The hut sits near the base of giant crags. It is a beautiful location.

If the dictionary held a definition of someone who had experience traveling to the Muir Hut on Mount Rainier, the page would be just a photo of forty-year- old Chris Hartonas next to his biography. The National Park Service said he had made the trip in all types of weather one hundred times. Chris was a Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) engineer living in Seattle. He had invited a fellow FAA engineer from Long Beach, California, Raymond Vakili, who was forty-eight years old. Another friend of Chris's was also joining the friends, Frank Van Leynseele, a sixty-eight- year-old FAA aerospace engineer from Edmonds, Washington. Frank was known as a slow, methodical, and safety-oriented mountaineer who had summited Mount Rainier five times. This team was very, very experienced.

Chris had obtained a National Park Service climbing permit to hike above the hut and practice the group's technical mountaineering skills. The group had planned on staying at the rock-constructed hut, as they had not brought tents. The group left Paradise on November 5 on the south side of the mountain and embarked on the eight- to ten-

hour climb. Chris and Raymond had modern, sleek sleds, which they used to pull their equipment behind them. Frank had an older, cumbersome sled that he pulled up the trail.

At approximately noon, as the trio hiked up the snowy trail, Frank made a note in his head that he'd never make the hut at the rate he was going. He was having problems managing the sled. He made the decision to head back to Paradise. Chris and Raymond believed that without Frank slowing them, they could easily make the hut. Frank said goodbye and last saw the pair ascending Panorama Point. This was the last time anyone ever saw Chris Hartonas and Raymond Vakili. When the pair didn't return from their trip, the National Park Service got involved. They immediately started to organize teams of climbers and canines to make their way to the hut. A November 10, 1999, article in the Centralia Chronicle had this statement from National Park spokesman Mark Morgan: "Hartonas is probably one of the most experienced people in the world on the Muir Snowfield." When an NPS employee makes a statement like that, I pay attention. This headline appeared in the November 12, 1999, edition of the Walla Walla Bulletin: "Bad Weather Hampers Search for Rainier Climbers." The article stated that storms continued to hit the search zone and keep rescuers out of the area.

The ten-day search to find Chris and Raymond included NPS rangers, Rainier Mountaineering guides, volunteers, and several teams of search dogs. The US Army sent helicopters, and the park service contracted with private helicopters to fly the area when weather permitted.

National Park Service and search-and-rescue ranger Mark Gauthier made the following statement on the National Park Service's search-and-rescue report site: "This was the fourth serious incident on the Muir Snowfield in 1999. It's di icult to speculate what exactly happened to the men. It's perplexing when two experienced, cautious and mature climbers just disappear. They were well equipped and Hartonas was very familiar with the area. Both men have a history of good decision making in the mountains and neither had a reputation for 'pushing it.' E orts to locate them will resume this summer when the winter snowfalls begin to melt. It is hoped that clues will be revealed." The park service lists both men as "presumed deceased" by hypothermia. They list the date of incident as November 7, the day they were supposed to be back and didn't arrive.

I place the date of disappearance as November 5, the last day anyone saw the pair. It was obvious to everyone in the search that Chris and

Raymond never made the hut. Whatever happened occurred between where Frank last saw them and the hut.

The facts I want you to focus on are nothing new: The incident happened after the point of separation. Bad weather inundated the search zone and compromised rescuers' e orts. Tracking canines brought to the area could not locate a scent. E orts to find the pair the following summer were futile. I can understand that bodies deteriorate over time, but sleds don't. Where were the sleds, coats, carabiners, crampons?

I have read the statement from National Park Ranger Mark Gauthier several times. You can tell by the tone of his message that he is as confused as I am. It has now been almost two decades, and there is not one clue as to what happened to Chris Hartonas and Raymond Vakili.

Is the Muir Snowfield its own Bermuda Triangle?

Richard R. Lee

Missing 9/11/04, Colchuck Lake, WA

Age at Disappearance: 47 years

• Water* Boulders* Granite Colchuck Lake sits in the middle of the Cascade Range approximately two miles northwest of Mount Stuart, fifteen miles south of Lake Wenatchee, and ten miles west of the town

of Wenatchee. This area of the Cascades has more people that have disappeared and never been found than any other location in the region.

Colchuck Lake sits in a bowl that has no trees around its outside and is located at the 5,800-foot level. The region is extremely rough and rugged.

On September 9, 2004, Richard Lee traveled from his residence in Hobart to the area of Colchuck Lake for two days of hiking and camping. He completed a two-day camping permit, filed it, and walked into the lake. At one point during those two days, Richard contacted his brother while he was on a ridgeline and indicated all was fine and he just wanted to say hello. This was the last time anyone has ever heard of Richard. On September 11 he didn't return to his residence.

Richard was an extremely experienced and a well-prepared camper. Even though he didn't arrive at his residence as planned, that didn't immediately strike a note of emergency. Mrs. Lee eventually believed that something was drastically wrong and reported Richard missing on September 15, the same day that searching started.

The first group into the area was the Chelan County mountain rescue team. They found Richard's vehicle parked at the trailhead and were flown into the lake and started to search. Searchers decided to focus on Enchantment Lakes, Colchuck Lake, and Lake Stuart.

The searching for Richard didn't go smoothly or easily. Searchers were advised that Richard liked to hike o the trail and camp in areas where others would not. His campsite was not found immediately, and searchers had to trek cross-country much of the time in an e ort to locate his camp, which they eventually found.

Richard's tent, rolled-out sleeping bag, and food in a bag pulled into a tree (so bears could not get to it) were eventually found five hundred feet o a trail near Colchuck Lake. Searchers stated the camp looked like Richard just walked away from it. Everything in the tent was neat as though he was ready to come back.

Rescuers searched for four days and never found any evidence of where Richard might be located.

In a strange twist to this story, I was one of the speakers at the 2012 National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) Association conference at Harvey's Lake Tahoe in June 2012. I spoke about a

variety of circumstances related to our study and then explained many of the incidents where people were found far outside normal search and rescue parameters.

Shortly after I returned from the NASAR conference, I received a very interesting series of e-mails from a search and rescue professional from Chelan County that was part of the search for Richard. He explained that this was one of the only incidents where he felt uncomfortable to be in the area of Richard's tent, and he couldn't explain why. He stated that it was an extreme e ort to find the tent, because it was obvious that he was traveling o -trail and they knew he wouldn't be in a standard campground.

The searchers stated that the campsite that Richard had chosen had an eerie feeling to it, and it appeared just like someone walked away from it minutes earlier. He said that he would normally never write to me about something like this. In his many years of experience, he had always heard of others having strange feelings in the woods, but he stated that this was the first time that he personally had felt that something was definitely wrong with this area.

Summary

Volunteers from Chelan, King, Yakima, and Kittias Counties all volunteered on the search for Richard. Helicopters and planes went into the air in an attempt to locate some trace of Richard. Nothing was ever found.

As I stated earlier, this area of the Cascades is treacherous if you are alone. I have no idea why when people are left alone, they disappear, and the majority are never found. I do understand why hikers and hunters are drawn to this region; it is gorgeous but unforgiving. I sincerely doubt that anyone visiting this area truly knows the dangers involved with traveling its backcountry.

One of the last items that the searcher wrote to me about was the feeling of the United States Forest Service (USFS) toward missing people. He stated that people disappear in the Cascades under very strange conditions, and the USFS probably doesn't want to talk about it. As in Richard's case, the searcher stated that the belongings that were left behind and the neatness of the tent and the fact that it almost appeared as he had left everything of value in the tent, just didn't make sense. He made it clear that there were no indicators that Richard committed suicide; it was just a very, very odd disappearance.

Gregory R. Brown

Missing: 07/05/05, Rachel Lake Trailhead, Lake Kachess, WA 5'7", 145 lb.

Age at disappearance: 49

Water« Canines« Granite

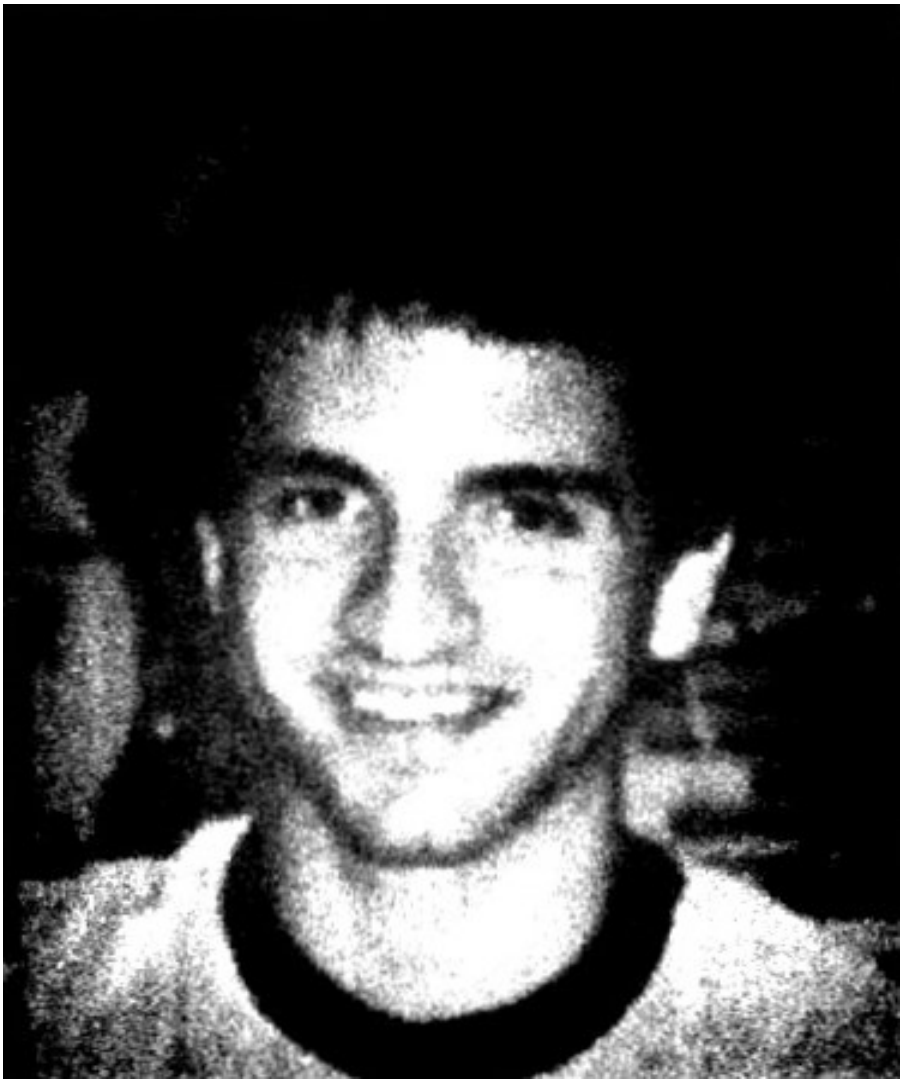
Lake Kachess is approximately forty miles east of Bellevue, Washington, and just north of Snoqualmie Pass. Rachel Lake is just northeast of Lake Kachess on the fringe of the Alpine Lake Wilderness, a very rugged and desolate area.

On July 5, 2005, Gregory Brown was reported missing. He had borrowed a friend's vehicle and driven it to the end of Forest Service Road 4930. Gregory had a one-mile hike from where he parked the car until he reached the lake. Box Canyon Lake was approximately halfway between the car and Rachel Lake.

The Kittitas County Sheri 's O ice did the original search before the county SAR teams took over with the assistance of USFS personnel. Helicopters and canines were brought in to search for Gregory. The canines did not pick up a scent, and the helicopters did not find any indicators of the missing person.

On July 11, 2005, Sergeant Fred Slyfield of the Kittitas County Sheri 's O ice gave an interview recorded by the Ellensburg Daily Record. Slyfield stated, "Brown was in good health and was not suicidal."

The article stated that Brown "disappeared without a trace," and searchers from five Washington counties searched for 316 days without any success. The search was terminated when inclement weather hit the area.



Zachary Weston

Missing: 08/10/05-Unk, Mount Rainier National Park, WA Age at disappearance: 22 years Intellectual* Cluster Zone*

If we were to ever classify someone as an intellectual, Zachary Weston would fit the profile. He was a high school valedictorian; a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in aeronautics and aerospace engineering; and a scholar, poet, novelist, musician, and mountaineer. Zachary loved life and knew his way around both the mountains and textbooks.

On June 22, 2005, Zachary left alone for a long- planned hiking trip into Mount Rainier National Park. He had significant experience hiking and enjoying the outdoors, and this trip was not outside his bounds. An August 14 article in the Spokesman Review had an explanation on how searchers started their trek to find Zachary: "Rangers began searching for Weston Friday [August 12], after his friend reported that he had not shown up to pick her up in Ashford. The car Weston was in was found parked at the Comet Falls Trailhead Thursday night."

The National Park Service knew the general area that Zachary had traveled and focused their e orts in the Van Trump Park and Kautz Glacier areas. The park service reported that they found tracks in these areas that matched the tread of Zachary's boots. An August 17, 2005, article in the Seattle Times had the following about where Zachary's tracks were lost: "They followed the boot prints along Wapowety Cleaver to an elevation of 10,000 feet 'at which point they petered out in the rocky terrain,' said Lee Taylor, a park spokeswoman."

The search for Zachary was terminated on August 20. An August 21 article in the Record Journal had the following statement from a park spokesperson: "The search for Zachary Weston at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington was called o Thursday night and the 22-year-old city native is 'presumed dead,' said Lee Taylor, information officer for the park, said Friday afternoon. 'In a sense it means that we think the person is no longer alive, most likely,' Taylor said. 'We feel at this point, there is not much to be gained by further searching.'" I like the wording by the spokesperson: "most likely," meaning the weather hadn't been extreme, and he still could be. If he still could be alive, shouldn't they still be searching?

Readers need to understand, footprints and tracks don't last long at high altitudes on Mount Rainier because of the amount of precipitation the mountain receives annually. If they found tracks, they must've been fairly fresh. I'm surprised that they didn't make a longer e ort to find Zachary. It seems very surprising they never found any of his camping equipment or a campsite. Where is all of his equipment, and where is Zachary?

Zach's father, Delmer Weston hiked into the area where his son was last seen and left a memorial rock. His dad actually found a cache of supplies his son had left and the search team had missed.

Gilbert Mark Gilman

Missing: 06/24/06-Unk, Olympic National Park, WA

Age at disappearance: 47 years

Intellectual« Cluster Zone« Water When I speak about intellectuals who have disappeared under unusual circumstances, Gilbert Gilman may be near the top of the list in pure smarts. The last job that we know he held was deputy director of the State of Washington

Retirement Fund. It is really Gilbert's past employment and history that resounds with intellect and intrigue.

Mr. Gilman was an army paratrooper, a psychological operations interrogator who was awarded two bronze stars. He had worked in Somalia for the United Nations and was a civilian contractor in Iraq. One of his former jobs also had him listed as working counterintelligence. He spoke five languages. He was not married but did have a girlfriend in Washington. One of his last jobs listed him as working for the Defense Intelligence Agency on counterintelligence related to weapons of mass destruction.

On June 24, 2006, Gilbert drove his 2005 silver Ford Thunderbird convertible to the Staircase Ranger Station in Olympic National Park near Hoodpsort, Washington. As his car was parked in the lot and he was getting ready for a hike, he was playing his music loud—so loud that Ranger Sanny Lustig walked to the car and asked him to turn it down. He did. Gilbert exited the car wearing a bright green Hawaiian shirt, shorts, sandals, and no backpack. He carried a camera and was wearing prescription glasses. He was last seen walking down the trail.

Gilbert was supposed to meet a work colleague on June 25, a meeting that he never attended. His work colleague contacted authorities, and a search ensued. Law enforcement rangers found his car parked at the ranger station and found his dirty clothes in the backseat, as though he was going to the Laundromat.

There was a ten-day formal search for Gilbert that encompassed five thousand hours, Bloodhounds, helicopters, and underwater cameras that searched the deep holes in the creeks and rivers near the area he was visiting. Nothing was ever found indicating that Gilbert had been on the trails in the park. No hikers remembered seeing Gilman.

If this case strikes you as abnormal, you are correct— it struck the local sheri 's department the same way. A May 16, 2008, article on KIR0.com had the following statement regarding Thurston County Sheri Dan Kimball: "He was the lead detective looking for Gilman two years ago and continues to o er assistance to park rangers regarding Gilman's disappearance. Kimball admits he's not sure Gilman is dead. 'His background is very di erent than most people who go missing. That's one of the things that raises some concerns for us.'" Gilman's bank accounts have never been touched since he disappeared.

Summary

Gilman's mother stated that her son was o ered a position as a true-life spy, and her son told her that he turned it down. If Gilman refused to be a spy, there were probably many in the international community who would want him dead. What better place to kill him than an isolated national park trail? But I don't think this is what happened.

Gilman walked away from his car wearing sandals and a bright-green Hawaiian shirt, not normal wear for a hiker in the Olympics. He was playing his music loudly in the parking lot, almost as though he wanted to ensure that the ranger saw him and made contact. Gilman was single, had an ultra-top-secret clearance, and was near the top in trust at almost every agency he had worked at. If there was ever a man with the ability to disappear, possibly forever—high intellect, high trust, multilingual, no family ties to hold him down—it was Gilbert. The real question in this disappearance is why and how was Gilbert transferred out of a national park without anyone observing the incident?

Lindsey Baum

Missing: 06/26/09, 9:15 p.m., Grays Harbor, WA 4’9”, 80 lb.

Age at disappearance: 10

Water* Canines

At approximately 9:15 p.m. on June 26,2009, ten- year-old Lindsey Baum was making the four-block walk from her friend’s home on Maple Street in McCleary to her house on Mommsen Road. Mommsen Road is on the perimeter of McCleary, and a portion of the road goes deep into the woods. Several small lakes, a river, and many small

creeks surround McCleary, and it's in an area known for its bear, elk, deer, and general abundance of wildlife.

At 10:50 p.m. Lindsey had still not arrived home. Her mother, Melissa, called the McCleary Police Department. An intensive search around McCleary was conducted without any clues as to Lindsey's whereabouts. At 4:00 a.m. McCleary PD asked for the assistance of the Grays Harbor Sheri 's O ice in the search for Lindsey. The search was massive that did include canines, but the girl was never found.

At the time of her disappearance, Lindsey was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and sneakers. Melissa Baum stated that she disappeared without extra clothes, her cell phone, or any money. She said her daughter had a good relationship with the family and would not have run away.

Chief George Crumb of the McCleary Police Department stated he had been with his department for five years and had never dealt with an abduction or instituted an Amber Alert. The police department had a 2010 budget of $476,000, with $36,000 allocated for overtime. They are a small department with limited manpower and extremely limited experience dealing with child abductions. This is not to imply that the o icers did not do a great job. It is a reality that working in a small town gives o icers little exposure to working major crimes.

Eric Lewis

Missing 7/01/10, Gibraltar Ledge, Mount Rainier, WA Age at Disappearance: 57 years

Cluster Zone* Point of Separation

I usually don't write about climbers who vanish on a mountain, but the Eric Lewis case isn't your average climbing mishap.

Eric was a climbing junkie who enjoyed the travel and adventure of attempting to climb the world's peaks. Eric graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a degree in fine arts with an emphasis in photography. He lived in Duvall, Washington, to be near

the Cascade Mountains and the hiking in the area. He called his mom in Omaha every Saturday to summarize the week's events and continue to build the bond that he had developed over his fifty-seven years.

Eric's climbing adventures had taken him to Nepal, New Zealand, Chile, and Argentina, and he had conquered Mount Rainier's summit ten times, you got that correct, ten times! This man knew the mountain and its challenges and was attempting a di erent route through the Gibraltar Ledge. Eric was climbing with experienced mountaineers Don Storm Jr. and Trevor Lane. A mishap should never have happened.

Early in the morning of July 1, 2010, Eric Lewis and his friends started to climb Mount Rainier. The day appeared to have great weather, and the men were not loaded with heavy equipment or bulky clothing. Everything went fine with the climb as Don led the team and stopped near fourteen thousand feet. Don waited as Trevor then made his way up the route. The weather at this point was starting to turn bad. Winds were quickly picking up, and snow was starting to blow. Trevor made it to Don's position, and then Eric hooked onto the rope and started to ascend. Don could catch glimpses of Eric on the rope, and then, suddenly, the rope went limp. After a few minutes, Don started to pull on the rope. He pulled up a loop knot at the end but no climbing harness or carabiner. Don and Trevor were now in blustery weather where it was di icult to see five feet. The men believed that Eric must've unhooked, but couldn't understand why he did it and why he didn't stay with the group.

Eric and Don waited out the storm and then descended to the point where Eric would've removed himself from the rope. At 13,800 feet, the climbers found a snow cave that probably was used by Eric. At 13,600 feet, they found Eric's backpack, snow shovel, and climbing harness, meaning Eric must've taken o the harness and taken shelter in the cave. There was nobody in the area of Eric's gear, and the snowstorm had wiped out any footprints. Don and Trevor descended to ten thousand feet and contacted climbing rangers to report the disappearance.

Rangers immediately went to the location where Eric was last seen and in fact got to the summit but didn't find him. The park service committed fifty searchers, two helicopters, and commercial guides in the search for Eric Lewis. After almost four grueling days of searching, the experienced climber was never found.

Summary

Eric Lewis was probably in the top 1 percent of the most experienced climbers to tackle mountains in North America. He was an internationally accomplished climber who had worked under some of the best guides in the world. He had extensive experience on Rainier and knew how to survive complicated situations.

I find it almost unbelievable that Eric unhooked from a safety line and vanished. He knew the route, he definitely knew the mountain, and he probably had more experience than the vast majority of climbing rangers for the park service. Lewis knew to never leave his backpack and supplies, as that surely would compromise his ability to survive. Lewis was a photographer and surely had his camera with him. He is another photographer that vanished on Rainier under very, very unusual circumstances.

I've read many articles about his mom and the grief she has su ered from Eric's disappearance. My prayers are with Mrs. Lewis.

Paige Wilson

Missing 8/20/10-4 p.m., Flodelle Campground, 19 miles east of Colville, WA

Age at Disappearance: 8 years

Point of Separation* Canines*

Paige was camping with her grandfather and cousins in a campground nineteen miles east of Colville, Washington, in the Colville National Forest. The group was playing and having the normal fun that kids do in the wilderness. How Paige exactly vanished wasn't very clear, but she was noticed missing at 4 p.m. on August 20.

National Forest o icials were notified, and they in turn called Fairchild Air Force Base for air support, the Spokane County Sheri 's o ice for searchers, and adjoining counties sent other assistance. Bloodhounds from di erent jurisdictions were brought to the scene of the disappearance, but none could track a scent to Paige.

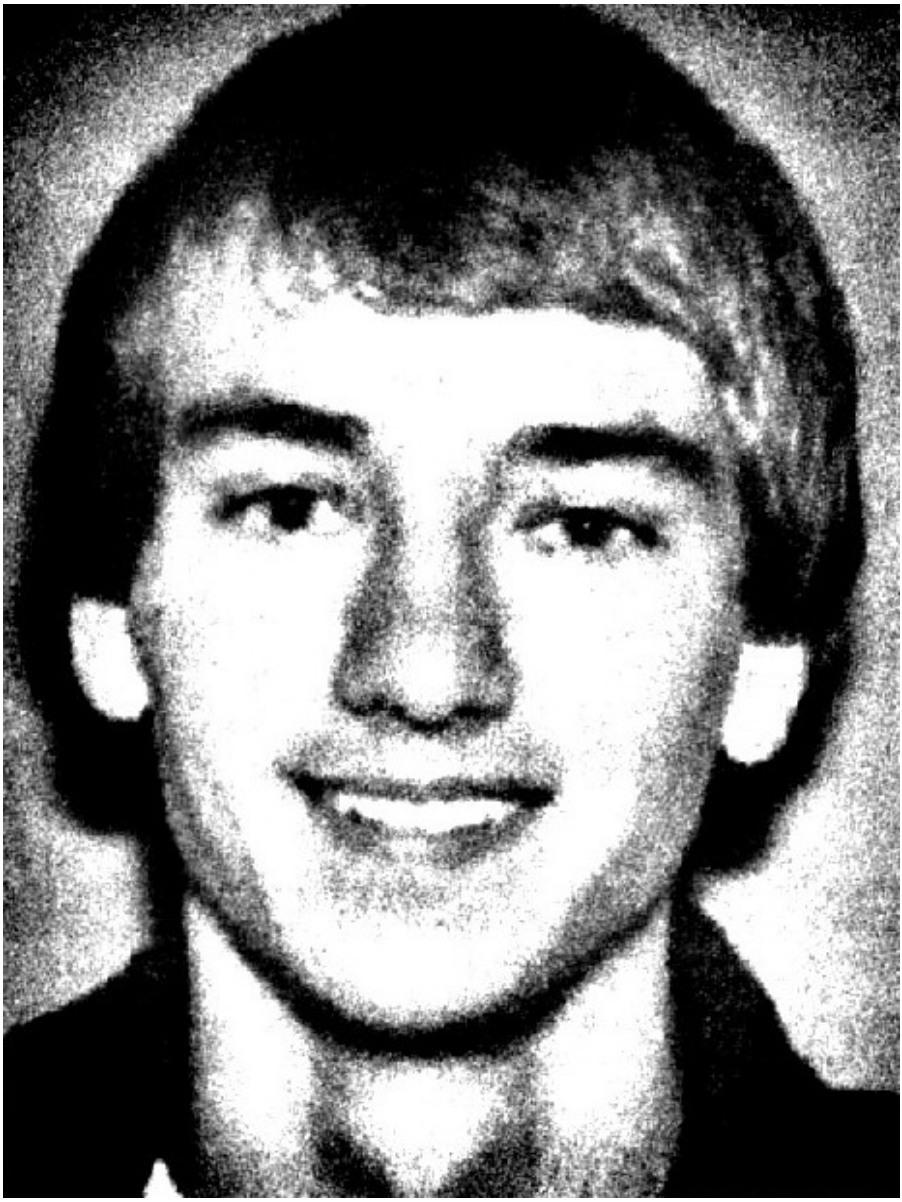
On Sunday at approximately 8 a.m. and nearly four miles from the point Paige was last seen, the girl was found walking along a lonely gravel road. She had many scratches and bruises on her arm but was relatively in good shape. She had survived forty hours in the wild with temperatures as low as thirty degrees.

The television station KXLY had a short interview on September 12 with Paige and posted a statement on its website asking her to explain how she got lost: “She said she wasn’t sure what happened, but she looked around and she was alone and lost.” A later statement on August 24 by the TV station KTVB asked Paige’s parents what she had said about her forty hours: “She hasn’t said much to anyone about her experience.”

Summary

The region around Colville has had many, many strange things happen over the years. Many of the unusual disappearances are documented in the western edition of my first “Missing 411” book. Paige Wilson’s statement about how she disappeared may be one of the most revealing you will ever read— victims truly don’t understand. Paige’s statement about how she got lost almost sounds as though she was in one location one second and another location the next, which does mimic the feelings and statements of many parents when they state their kids were right next to them one minute and then gone the next.

This incident happened just ten miles south of the Bobby Panknin disappearance.



Dwight Clark

Missing: 9/26/2010-2:00 a.m., Bellingham, WA

Age at disappearance: 18 years Water* Point of Separation* Dwight was raised in the small city of Auburn, Washington, just northeast of Tacoma. He was a very good student and an excellent communicator. He liked to keep close ties

to family and friends. He was known to send up to six thousand text messages a month and talked to his family multiple times a day. The young man had become an excellent skateboarder and had made videos of his skills and had just launched a clothing line. He was majoring in engineering had hoped to pursue his business interests. He had the brains, communication skills, and energy to be very successful.

On September 25,2010, Dwight had been at school just two weeks when a friend invited him to his apartment for a party. The event was in the 1000 block of Indian Street, and it lasted till late into the night.

Dwight walked from his room at Nash Dormitory to the apartment. At 2:00 a.m. on September 26, Dwight told friends that he was walking back to his room on campus, a short six-block jaunt. This walk would've been a fairly level stroll straight into the university on Indian Street. A downhill direction would've led into downtown Bellingham and toward the Bellingham Bay.

Dwight never made it back to his dormitory, and he was reported as missing.

Hundreds of volunteers, law enforcement, and relatives searched for the Auburn native. There were conflicting reports that canines couldn't find a scent and another report that one canine followed a scent to Bellingham Bay and the area of Georgia Pacific. That area was intensively searched, and it was reported that nothing was found on the beach or in the bay. An October 7, 2010, article on ABC News had a statement from Mark Young, the Bellingham police spokesperson: "Clark's case was classified as a 'highly suspicious missing person case,' according to Young, who admitted that he was ba led by the disappearance." Police did conduct a search of Dwight's cell phone tra ic and found a phantom text at 2:44 a.m. It was a blank message with no content. What is interesting about that message is that many missing people have one last phone or text message that is sent near the time they disappear. Some of these go to 911, and others are sent anonymously with no content. Many times this is indicative of the phone hitting the ground hard and activating the response. This was not the case with Dwight's phone, as you will learn later.

On September 27, Bellingham police detectives got the case and started to work with it. On September 29, thirty-five volunteers searched the Bellingham community for Dwight. On September 30, fifty volunteers searched Cornwall Park and Little Squalicum Beach and found nothing. On October 1, sixty volunteers searched the

neighborhoods surrounding the Western campus for Dwight or his clothing. They found nothing. On October 2, 120 searchers covered Fairhaven Park and surrounding streets. At this point there was a reward of $16,000 for information leading to Dwight's location.

On October 6, 2010, Dwight's body was found in a lumber pond operated by Georgia Pacific in Bellingham Bay. This was in the same general area where a canine supposedly tracked a scent trail. The student's cell phone, student identification card, and driver's license was found on the body. The Whatcom County coroner's o ice did the autopsy and found a blood alcohol level of. 13 percent. This would not be enough to kill anyone and probably would not have caused extreme disorientation. There was a very small amount of THC (marijuana) found in his system, Dr. Gary Goldfogel stated. He also claimed that death was caused by drowning and was accidental. There was no trauma to the body. Nobody could say where Dwight entered the water, or why. The route that Dwight would've had to take to Bellingham Bay could not have been misinterpreted as the route to his dormitory. The walk to the water would've been downhill and he probably could've seen the bay during the walk. O icials almost want us to believe that alcohol causes these young men to march like zombies into the water, and continue to march into the death zone, allowing the water to go over their head, become sucked into their lungs, and die. Only one person wakes up from this zone and swims to safety; everyone else succumbs to their drowsiness and dies. The idea that anyone could get into the bay near the Georgia Pacific property is a pretty good stretch of the imagination. The property is covered by two separate fences to ensure that nobody can get into the water from the surrounding roads or walkways. Keep your common-sense hat on at this point and don't wander. These young men are not idiots. They understood that water was on the other side of the fence and their safety was just up the hill at their dormitory. Why would anyone climb two di erent fences and enter fifty-degree water?

The area surrounding Bellingham does have several missing people that I've written about in the past. Vancouver Island has a cluster of missing people as does the Cascade Range in Washington and the Olympic Peninsula. The University of British Columbia at Vancouver has two unusual disappearances, and British Columbia has many, many highly unusual cases of people vanishing. All of these incidents have one major thing in common: they are relatively close to water and the ocean. The cases in the Cascades are generally within a fifty-mile radius of the water. The Grandstrom and Clark disappearances are the most similar two cases of a small cluster that I've ever documented. Common sense would indicate that something very, very

unusual happened to these two young men.

Patty Krieger

Missing 10/21/10-1 p.m., Sauk

Mountain, Rockport, WA

Age at Disappearance: 65 years

** Hearing Impaired-Disability •

Point of Separation« Canines

The months prior to October 2010 had not been joyous for Pat- Patty

Krieger ty and her live-in boyfriend, Larry Pressley. Larry's parents had passed away, and the two decided to take his parents' ashes into the Washington Cascades and distribute them in the mountains. In the morning hours of October 21, 2010, Patty, Larry, and friends Nichole Gardner, Troy Robinson, Chrissy Baumgarner, and Matt Robinson and relative James Pressley all drove to the top of Sauk Mountain Road, parked, and started the climb to the summit of Sauk Mountain. The group also had the companionship of Patty's Rottweiler dog, Bear, who followed Patty as the group made the hike.

The road ends at an approximately 4,400-foot elevation, and then there is a steep trail that cuts back and forth until you reach 5,545 feet and the peak. This region has old-growth forests with some very thick and rugged mountains. Sauk Lake sits down in a bowl on the other side of the summit with an elevation of 4,025 feet.

Patty was not someone who knew the outdoors well, but she also was known as someone who was tough and could withstand unusual conditions. She was also known to be nearly deaf without the assistance of the hearing aids that she wore in both ears, which she was wearing on this day.

The group spread the ashes of Mr. and Mrs. Press- ley and proceeded back down the mountain. As the group was walking downhill, they came to a fork in the trail where Patty stated that she was going to take the fork and intimated she would meet the group later at the car. The group got Patty's attention, and she looked at them, didn't say anything, and continued down the fork with Bear. Everyone felt that the trail Patty was on would eventually lead back to the car. It didn't.

The group arrived back at their vehicles and started to wait for Patty and Bear. They never arrived. The Skagit county sheri was called and reported Patty as a missing person as of 1 p.m. on October 2. Volunteer searchers, military aircraft equipped with FLIR, sheri 's deputies, and family all combed Sauk Mountain looking for Patty Krieger; they didn't find anything.

Patty's son, Alan Patterson, was scouring the mountain on the second day of the search and thought he heard a dog growl and a bark. The bark and growl was heard in a very rugged and dangerous area. Follow-up searches around the mountain did not find Bear.

On October 5, after three days of nonstop search e orts, the Skagit County Sheri 's o ice formally called o the e ort to find Patty. Alan continued to go to the mountain on weekends, but nothing of any

evidentiary value came forward until late October.

Twenty-six days after Patty vanished, a resident of Rockport, Washington, found a Rottweiler walking the mountains—it was Bear. The dog was malnourished and underweight but alive. Bear was taken to a veterinarian and put on a special diet to quickly get his energy back. Family and SAR o icials took Bear back to the spot where Patty disappeared, but he didn't track. Other SAR o icials also brought tracking dogs to the scene, and they also failed to find a scent, or refused to track.

The discovery of Bear was important. It's extremely doubtful that any dog could survive twenty-six days without food; somewhere Bear was able to find something to eat. There is plenty of water in the area—that wouldn't be an issue. It is surprising that with the number of searchers covering the area where Patty disappeared that Bear didn't bark or run up to searchers if he was still in the immediate vicinity, especially if Patty was in distress.

The area around Sauk Mountain is rugged and difficult terrain. Patty was not a mountaineer and wasn't in terrific shape. The thought that this sixty-five-year- old woman could hike through mountain ranges and through rugged terrain doesn't make sense. After someone dies, the body emits horrendous odors, odors that can be followed by canines and easily smelled by humans if in reasonable proximity to the body. These odors were never found.

Summary

The general area of the Northern Washington Cascades has a history of disappearances. Patty's disappearance matches many of the criteria for missing people highlighted in our "Missing 411" books: disability (hearing impaired), missing with a canine, tracking dogs unable to find a scent, and searchers are surprised they can't find any evidence of her being in the area. However, this Northern Cascade area has a history of missing boys, not older women. Other areas of North America do have regions were older people have disappeared—is this a paradigm shift for this area?

There was that one odd moment that was described by the group of people as they hiked down the mountain. The group stated that as Patty and Bear were separating from the group, Patty stared at them as they walked away on the trail. The group specifically used the word "stared": what was she thinking? She knew that she was walking away from the group and acknowledged this by the stare, but was she in a

clear and conscious state? Many of the people that I have described in both previous books were found in a semiconscious or unconscious state. The question that continues to arise: are these same people in a clear mind and conscious of their actions when they walk into oblivion?

After this story was originally released in an earlier book, I received contact from relatives of Patty who said they believed she was murdered. I respect their feelings and just report associated facts related to her disappearance.

Hildegard Hendrickson

Missing 06/08/13-5:00 p.m., Wenatchee Lake, WA Age at disappearance: 79 years

Intellect« Mushroom Picker« Point of Separation- Canines* Hildegard Hendrickson is of German descent and came to the United States to attend college. She was able to get her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate at the University of Washington. She later joined Seattle

University's MBA program and, during her thirty years as a professor, helped establish the Albers School of Business and Economics. She retired from the university in 1996. She was known as a very accomplished immigrant.

Monte and Hildegard Hendrickson were married, and each enjoyed picking mushrooms in the forests of Washington. Both became experts and were members of the Puget Sound Mycological Society. In 1997 the society gave the pair one of its highest awards, the "Golden Mushroom," for helping and strengthening the organization. Hildegard wore a golden mushroom necklace around her neck. Many articles about Hildegard stated that she was a "legend" in the mushroom arena. Monte passed away, and this left Hildegard going into the woods alone to enjoy her hobby, a practice that fellow members of the club told her not to do. Everyone knew she was careful, never traveling more than one half mile from her car and never going o -trail for long distances. She had actually told friends that she wouldn't lose sight of her car while she was in the woods. Friends also knew that Hildegard had a bad knee that inhibited her hiking long distances and crossing logs and rocks.

On June 8, 2013, Hildegard drove her vehicle to an area fifteen miles north of Lake Wenatchee on Chi- wawa River Road near Basalt Peak. She parked her car and left her purse inside, leaving the vehicle unlocked. She went north along Minnow Creek near the Basalt Peak Trailhead looking for morel mushrooms. This valley has very steep slopes and is thick with old-growth trees.

If you believe past articles about Hildegard, she was picking mushrooms while carrying a walking stick and a mushroom basket (these items were confirmed to be with Hildegard by witnesses who saw her just prior to her disappearance). She went to the trailhead area on June 8. Since she lived alone, nobody realized that she hadn't returned home until Tuesday, June 11. A friend of Hildegard's had recognized her vehicle parked for two days near the Minnow Creek Trailhead. This friend knew that she always went home to her residence in Seattle at the end of a day of picking. He became suspicious and called the sheri . On the afternoon of June 11, Chelan County deputies found her vehicle parked at that location. Deputies contacted Hildegard's son (Andrew) by phone, and he confirmed that he hadn't spoken to his mother in a few days, and this might mean that she was possibly missing. An on-scene sergeant contacted Hildegard's cell phone provider to see if they could ping her phone. They determined that the phone was turned o . Deputies subsequently searched her light green 2012 Ford Focus and found the windows

rolled down two inches, the doors unlocked, and her purse with wallet, credit cards, and cell phone inside. They also located a cooler in her trunk that contained food and water, which appeared to be untouched. In hindsight, finding the car in this condition would indicate that Hildegard didn't lose sight of her vehicle while she was out looking for mushrooms.

Deputies contacted Bloodhound teams and searchers and requested they respond to their location. The sheri made a determination to close USFS Road 6210 at the Chiwawa Road junction. Fourteen ground searchers were divided into four teams to accompany the Bloodhound into the field to search. The group searched from 4:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. without finding anything of value.

On June 12 the search started at 7:45 a.m. Fourteen trained searchers and thirty-four total personnel were on scene working the area in a grid pattern. A search helicopter arrived at 11:30 a.m. and searched until approximately 1:30 p.m. The flight crew reported that they had minimal visibility through the forest canopy. They returned to base. Hildegard's son accompanied other searchers and was west of USFS 6210 when at 10:00 a.m. he heard what he described as a "whistling sound." I can confirm from contact with searchers in the area that a whistling-type sound was heard but was never identified. The command post sent several search teams into the area. Searchers found nothing of value.

At 1:00 p.m., deputies found a witness who had spoken with Hildegard on June 8 at 1:00 p.m. as she headed up the trail. They reported that she was wearing a tan vest and carrying a basket. They also found a USFS employee who reported they saw her at 1:30 p.m. on the trail before the first switchback.

This incident had significant press. A physician saw the media coverage and remembered speaking with Hildegard at the trailhead as he was hiking out and she was walking in. He reported that she was wearing a straw hat, a tan vest, and a colorful shirt under the vest. She was carrying a metallic bucket in one hand and a metal walking stick in the other. The physician told the deputy that he was concerned for her because she was alone and didn't appear in the best medical condition for her physical height. Hildegard was 5'4" and 180 pounds with short gray hair.

On June 13 and 14, there was a major push to find Hildegard with over seventy searchers and multiple canines, all producing nothing.

After the sixth day of searching, it was determined to terminate the e ort. Chelan County deputies and SAR volunteers, Kings County SAR and canine handlers, and family volunteers and ten Bloodhound search teams all contributed to the e ort to find the mushroom picker.

On June 16 at 4:50 p.m., the o icial search to locate Hildegard was terminated.

Deputies did return multiple times to the location to search. At one point, two deputies hiked over two hours into a location. They found nothing.

On July 9 Chelan County was conducting training for Explorer Scouts. They decided to use the location where Hildegard had disappeared. The area was again searched; nothing was found.

On September 5 the county was conducting search and rescue training and again utilized Hildegard's last location as a training site. Two motorcycle teams were asked to check the shoulder of the roadway near the trailhead. One quarter mile north of the trailhead, on the east side of the road, deputies reported that they encountered a rotten or putrid smell. The wind was very light, and they couldn't locate the source. There was a steep embankment o the roadway, so search teams were deployed to the location. Searchers reported that the odor was prevalent at times but would often fade away. They never identified the source.

A six-day search ensued with ground teams, helicopters, and eight di erent dog teams with various breeds attacking the hillsides looking for a scent. They found nothing. They did not find Hildegard's walking stick, basket, nothing. Her car was found unlocked and the purse inside. It did not appear to be touched. Upward of eighty people attempted to locate Hildegard, including a search team member who contacted me. This individual stated that the searchers were befuddled at the lack of evidence and the number of mushrooms in that specific area. The searcher did confirm that he and others heard strange whistles in the woods.

A June 18,2013, article in the Seattle Times had the following statement from a law enforcement source: "Sheri 's sergeant Kent Sisso, who coordinated the search said, 'We need to step back and look at some other aspects of the case.' Regarding the possibility of foul play, Sisson said, 'You always investigate that side of any search.' But Hendrickson's purse and money were found in her unlocked car at the trail- head, making it hard to see what motive might have been for

harming her, he said."

The day prior to Hildegard disappearing, she had traveled with friends into this same trailhead and discussed mushroom opportunities. Hildegard had agreed at that time that she wouldn't go out to this area alone.

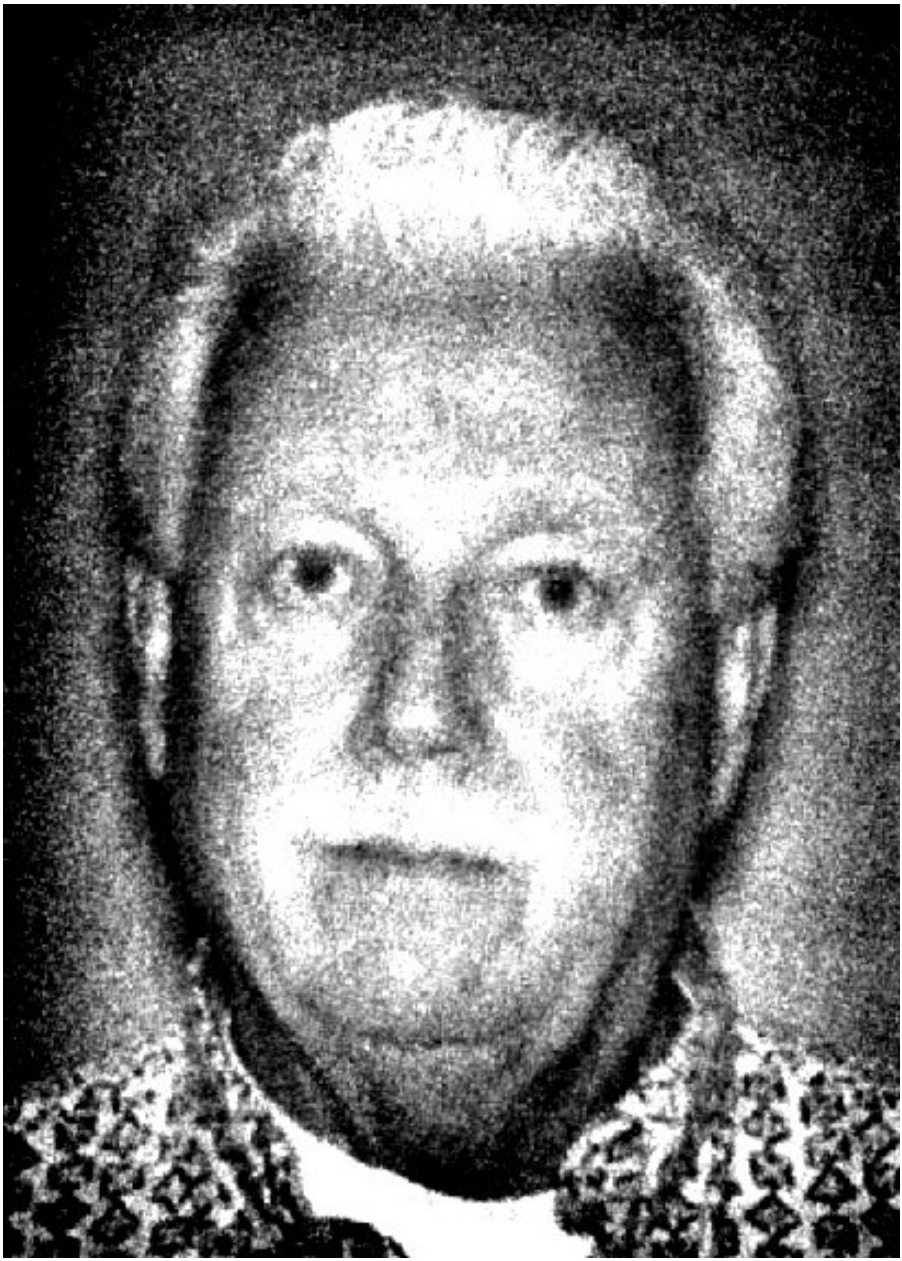
Summary

Hildegard Hendrickson was not a mobile person. She was older and used a walking stick. Searchers had excluded an animal attack as the reason behind the disappearance. The mountains in this area are so steep that the idea she climbed any hills near the trailhead is out of the question. This woman is one of many people who have vanished in the region around Wenatchee Lake.

In a past story about a disappearance, a member of the Chelan County search team had contacted me about the cases I've chronicled. He stated that these SAR teams know that very strange things are happening in the mountains. This particular searcher stated that he had been on search e orts in the past and had gotten strange feelings while looking for the missing.

Again, don't ever hike or go into the woods alone.

Always carry a personal locator beacon.



Bryan Lee Johnston

Missing: 08/28/13-Unk, Olympic National Park, WA

Age at disappearance: 71 years Water* Canines* Cluster Zone

There is significant ambiguity about this disappearance, and the

National Park Service has refused to release details about what they know. I filed a Freedom of Information Act request for documents about this incident well over one month after it was reported. Their response indicated the reports were not finalized. I don't believe this. In my police days, your reports had to be completed before you went home. There is too much of a chance that details would be forgotten and then not documented if reports were not completed that night. I still don't have the reports.

I have learned that Bryan Johnston was a very handy man and had the ability to build almost anything. He had renovated his house in Ballard and had built another residence in Moses Lake. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and spent his military time in the air force. He retired from Seattle City Light.

I was able to put together basic details on this case from various articles.

Bryan Lee Johnston had planned a trip into Olympic National Park via the Ozette Loop Trail. This is a nine-mile roundtrip that could easily be accomplished in three days. Surveillance footage shows he went to a Safeway store and purchased a sandwich and two waters on August 22. His family reported him missing on August 28. Rangers found his truck at the Ozette Loop Trailhead parking lot after his family had filed a report.

Bryan's family was interviewed. They stated he took a sleeping bag and a daypack and told them he would be gone for two to three days. The National Park Service did comment that it was nearly impossible to get lost on this trail, as it was raised plywood over marshes and creeks and easy to follow. There is one segment that goes along the Pacific Ocean that is not raised plywood. Barb Maynes was the spokesperson for the park service and was interviewed for an October 27 article in the Peninsula Daily News: "About a week after the primary search ended, the park had several teams of dogs go over the same ground, Maynes said. There were no clues, no alerts, she said."

The National Park Service stated that they committed two and one half days to looking for Bryan on the ground and they had a helicopter in the air and found nothing. Bad weather and rain did hinder search e orts.

Jinny Longfellow was also interviewed in the same article that I quoted above and reflected on the assistance the family secured from other sources: "Longfellow said a paranormal researcher talked to her

about the possibility of UFOs having something to do with her brother's disappearance. T told him I hadn't even thought about that, but if a spaceship came anywhere near my brother, he'd be the first one aboard,' Longfellow said."

As of the publication of this book, Bryan has not been found and the National Park Service never supplied their report.

Karen Sykes

Missing: 06/18/14 at 10:40 p.m.—Mount Rainier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 70 years • National Park, Marathon Runner, Weather, Canines, Cluster Zone, Point of Separation

I pondered for several days how to introduce this case. When I first heard of the victim's disappearance, I read her bio and was shocked to hear someone with her experience, stamina, and background had disappeared. The more I read, the more confused I became.

I seriously doubt there is any writer in Washington with more knowledge of Mount Rainier National Park than Karen Sykes. Even though Karen was seventy years old, friends stated that she had the energy of a twenty-year-old. She was a marathon runner who split her time between running, working part-time in a pet store, writing articles for various sites, and hiking. She authored the book Hidden Hikes in Western Washington and actually wrote a lengthy article about trail safety for visitrainier.com. Karen was also an outdoor writer for several decades for the Seattle Post Intelligencer. In the small amount of spare time she had, she led hikes for the Mountaineer Club on Mount Rainier. This woman knew Mount Rainier National Park like you know your neighborhood.

On June 18, 2014, Karen and her longtime partner, Bob Morthorst, decided to take a day hike on the Owyhigh Lakes Trail inside Mount Rainier National Park. This was planned to be an easy day hike. According to Bob, Karen was well equipped in case of an emergency and was carrying a survival blanket and food. The pair hiked the trail until near noon, when they reached snow on the trail. Bob said he didn't want to go any farther, but Karen said she'd go a little farther and would be back in an hour (Point of separation). Bob sat near the trail and ate his lunch. It was now noon.

Karen didn't return to Bob, and he made his way back down the trail to contact the National Park Service. At 10:30 p.m., he notified the park service of the disappearance. The June 25, 2014, edition of The Morning Report had this information about where Bob and Karen stopped on the trail: "She went ahead when the party of two encountered snow at approximately 4500-5000 feet." This is an important part of the puzzle in understanding where she vanished.

As news of the disappearance started to make its way to Seattle, Karen's friends and work asso-ciates started to make interesting

comments. The June 19, 2014, edition of the Seattle Times had this statement from Karen's longtime friend Don Geyer: "She couldn't go far, Geyer said, because the trail was covered in snow." Here is where you need to apply common sense: there is no doubt the trail was covered in snow, but shouldn't SAR be able to follow her tracks, especially if she went o trail? In the same article, Lois Kemp, a friend who hiked with Karen on weekends, mentioned Karen's expertise: "'She is the guru of the trails,' said Kemp, adding that Sykes hikes at least twice a week." Later in the same article, Kemp continues: "T find it di icult to imagine that she would get lost. I think it's more likely she's injured and waiting perhaps impatiently to be rescued,' Kemp said. Greg Johnston, a former outdoors writer for the Seattle Post Intelligencer, said Sykes is an avid strong hiker who knows the mountain extremely well: 'If anybody can survive it, it's her. She's really tough and really savvy.'"

The park service threw everything possible at the e ort to find Karen. At one point, they put 110 searchers on the trail. They also recruited resources from North Cascades and Olympic National Parks. Multiple canine teams were used, including the German Shepherd Search and Rescue Team of Washington, Kittias County Canine Team, and various county SAR teams. A private helicopter was used when weather permitted. The air support was restricted for part of the search, because of cloudy weather.

On June 21, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a search helicopter found a body partially down the summit above Boundary Creek in an area of rocks and little ground cover. This was on the other side of the ridge from where Karen was hiking. The coroner later confirmed it was Karen.

The location where Karen was located is beyond unbelievable. The press in the area never mentioned the extremely odd place she was found. The only unusual statement made about the spot Karen was located was documented in the June 22 article on Oregon Live: "The body found Saturday was o trail, about half way down a steep hillside above Boundary Creek, park spokeswoman Patti Wold said. She didn't know whether it was apparent that the woman had fallen or what caused the death. The investigation is ongoing." The June 21, 2014, edition of the Seattle Times had this description of the location: "Tt's really steep, rough terrain that's not easy to travel in,' said Mount Rainier spokeswoman Patti Wold. 'Hardly anyone goes there.'" Yeah, hardly anyone goes there, because hardly anyone could get there, even without snow.

To get to the location where she was found, Karen would have had to hike through deep snow at the 4,500-foot level and make her way up the Owyhigh Lakes. Directly east of the lakes is Governors Ridge, rising to 6,200 feet in elevation. The lakes have an elevation of 5,200 feet, meaning Karen had to climb 1,000 feet in deep snow directly east up and over the top of the ridge to get to the area where her body was located.

Go back to the beginning of the article and read what outdoor writers, friends, and associates said about this woman. I read many statements that all claimed she knew the trails better than anyone. Others stated that she was the last person anyone would believe to get lost in the park. It's hard for anyone to explain to me how she made it over the top of Governors Ridge. The better question is this: Why go over the top of the ridge? She knew Bob was waiting for her downhill on the trail.

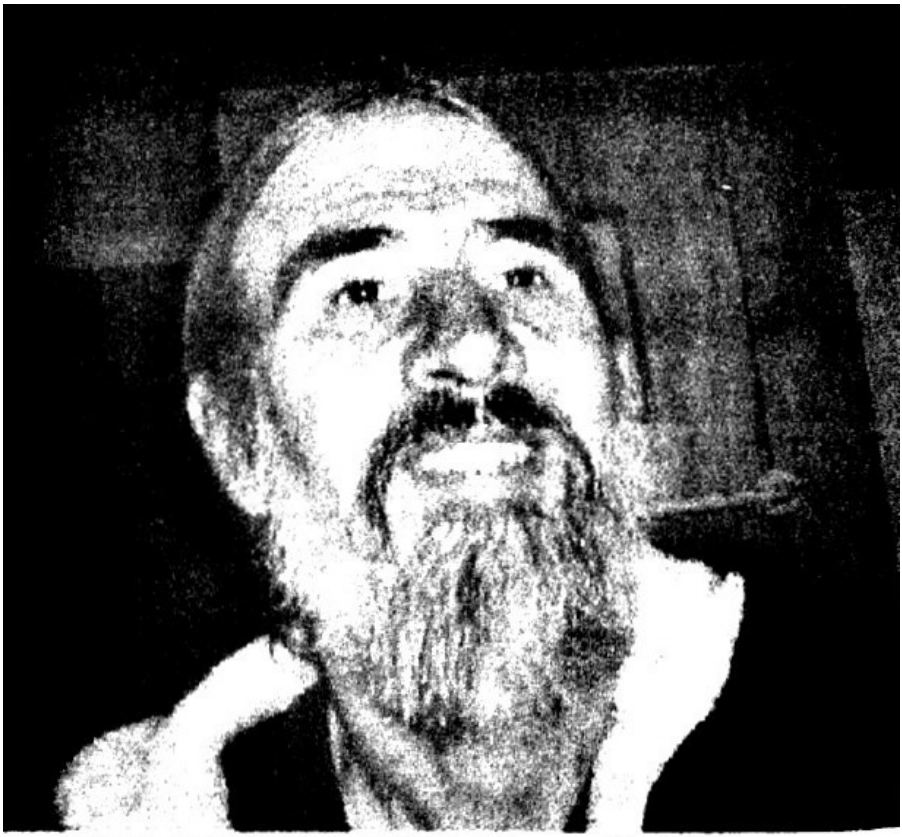
The Pierce County Coroner ruled that Karen died of hypothermia. Multiple articles stated that she was carrying adequate emergency supplies to survive a cold night on the mountain. She had written a book about trail survival and safety. Kim Brown, who had hiked with Karen many times in the past, made the following statement in a June 23, 2014, article of the Seattle Times'. "She was very careful, very cautious." The path that Karen would've taken had she hiked would have been a treacherous, dangerous, and hazard-filled path that makes no logical sense.

I encourage readers to review summitpost.org and looking at the topographic map for this area. Then go to Google and look at photos for Governors Ridge. It is a rocky, craggy, dangerous place to cross the mountain. I have deep compassion for Karen's friends and family over the loss of a great writer, friend, and mother.

Until reporters stop accepting casual explanations for nearly impossible situations, continue to expect the same treatment from the National Park Service. Be smart, reporters; be inquisitive and know the area before you start asking questions.

Why didn't Karen use her emergency supplies to survive the cold? How did she get to such a danger filled location? Why would she tell her partner she'd be back in an hour and later be found in a location that would take at least a full day to get to, if it was even possible?

Something very unusual happened to Karen Sykes.



****MISSING** Jim Griffin**

Last seen Monday 12/22/2014 at the upper Olympic Hot Spring. If you have seen this person or have information please call Olympic National Park Dispatch at

360-565-3115

James Gri in

Missing: 12/22/14 at 4:00 p.m.—Olympic National Park, WA

Age at Disappearance: 60 years

• National Park, Weather, Canines, Disability, Cluster Zone

Olympic National Park has to be one of the most beautiful and least visited parks in the United States. It sits on the far western edge of Washington State on the coast. It has high volumes of precipitation and thus has extremely lush vegetation. The mountains are steep and make hiking to peaks a huge challenge.

One of the most visited spots inside Olympic National Park is the hot springs. These are a series of natural occurring pools that are accessed by hiking two and a half miles from a parking lot. Most of the trail is paved and is described on several hiking sites as an easy walk. There is overnight camping available near the pools that is by reservation only.

James Gri in was a sixty-year-old laborer from Port Angeles, Washington, he was hiking to a location just eight miles from the Olympic Hot Springs Trail- head. He was born in Midland, Michigan (Ten miles west of Lake Huron), and had a bachelor's degree. He lived alone and was on disability due to a job injury to his foot. He truly enjoyed Olympic National Park and had an annual pass for his regular trips to the Hot Springs.

On December 22, 2014, at approximately 10:30 a.m., James left his residence and drove his Subaru to a Safeway store just a few blocks away. A receipt later found in his car was time-stamped at 10:48 a.m. on December 22, 2014, for Tootsie Rolls and Folgers Instant Co ee. At 10:51 a.m., he texted an acquaintance, stating that he was going for a hike at "U know where." This person knew he was heading for the hot springs.

The investigation revealed that James had driven his Subaru Outback from Safeway to the Olympic Hot Springs Trailhead; parked the car; and put the co ee he'd purchased, along with his Tootsie Rolls and other supplies, in his backpack; and headed for the hot springs via the trail.

The Olympic National Park o icial report on the incident shows that investigators later found other vehicles parked in the same parking lot, ran the registration information, and were able to contact the owners. These people confirmed that they had engaged James in lengthy conversations in the pools from approximately 2:00 p.m. till somewhere near 3:00 or 4:00 p.m., at which point they had gone back to their campground and James had started walking toward his vehicle.

It is an uphill hike 2.5-mile hike from the parking lot to the pools. The path is paved and impossible to miss. The people James met at the pool indicated that he was in a great mood and acted normal. They shared non-alcoholic drinks. James was last seen on the trail headed back toward the parking lot.

James's friends and family told investigators that he was a slow and methodical hiker because of an injury to his foot. Keep this fact in mind as the story goes on.

On December 24, James's brother and sister were expecting to see him for a special Mongolian Christmas Eve dinner. He didn't show up. They went to his residence, where they found his dog inside and his vehicle gone. At 10:15 p.m., James Gri in was reported as a missing person. The National Park Service was contacted by the PENCOM law-enforcement system and advised that James was probably inside Olympic National Park, probably on the Olympic Hot Springs Trail. One of the rangers who was advised of his vehicle stated that he remembered seeing a car of that description at the trailhead on December 23 at 8:50 a.m. Rangers checked the backcountry permits for the park and could not locate one for James; this indicated that he was intending to take only a day hike.

On December 25, National Park Rangers went to the trailhead and located James's vehicle. They gathered several rangers and entered the trail to search for James.

At 12:30 p.m., one search team found something unusual. Half a mile up the trail from the parking lot, they located a red and black backpack that was not visible from the trail. It was adjacent to a small stream and leaning against a log with a towel draped over the top of the bag. There was a Mountain House food bag that had been opened and filled with water, indicating that someone had heated the water to consume the contents. A Coke can and a mug sat on top of the log, and searchers found a cigarette butt on the ground of the type James smoked. There was no stove outside the bag, but they found a stove and fuel inside the bag. Rangers photographed the scene, recovered the contents, and showed it to family and friends, who confirmed it belonged to James. SAR personnel thoroughly searched the area around the backpack and found nothing of value. This was located fifty feet o the main trail.

Page 4 of the o icial National Park Service report indicated the following: "Encountered di icult searching due to reduced visibility with fog. Areas intended to be searched were not covered thoroughly

due to fog and darkness."

Once the backpack was taken back to NPS headquarters, it was searched. Investigators found a camera with film that was later developed. There were two photos of interest. One picture appeared to show a dried creek bed with a series of large boulders. The other was a very dark photo that appeared to be looking into the thick forest. Both of these pictures were odd, and it didn't seem that someone would be taking just the picture of what was plainly observed. Was he trying to photograph something that was evasive?

As one of the final acts of December 25, rangers requested canine search teams from various areas of Washington.

On December 26, friends and family of James responded to the search location to assist. One of these people brought James's dog, Bud. Searchers brought Bud to where they'd found the backpack in the hopes he would lead them to James, but this did not work. At 12:20 p.m., three canine search teams arrived and were deployed into the primary search zone around the backpack. The day ended with no new evidence found.

On December 27, two canine teams arrived at the search command center. They were deployed into the same search area as it widened around the area of the backpack. At 9:24 a.m., one searcher located a Tootsie Roll wrapper fifty feet uphill from the backpack. The area around this location was searched further, and nothing else was located. All search e orts were terminated early for what the NPS reported referred to as "inclement weather."

You can tell from reading the report that searchers were getting frustrated. They must've searched every area around the backpack where they thought he might conceivably travel. They were finding nothing. On December 28, e orts were scaled back. Only six searchers in three teams were deployed. They searched five hundred feet north and west of the backpack. They found nothing. The formal search for James was terminated at this point.

Almost a month elapsed before the next notation was made in the report. Here is what is written on page 7 of the o icial NPS report:

Cheshier working with search dog Ellie finds Gri in at approximately 2900', .3 mile uphill from where Gri in's pack was found. Gri in's wallet contained his WA state driver's license, $95, credit cards, library card, ONP Annual pass card, other club cards, and what looked

to be receipts which had faded due to dampness are found on his person. No headlamp or supply of food is found with him. He is found lying adjacent to a downed tree with no obvious traumatic injury. He is clothed in cotton jeans, shirt and coat. No rain coat, pants or warm weather clothing is found with him.

I had to read the previous statement several times to realize its importance. He was wearing a coat; isn't that clothing for cold weather? The most important item to me is that there is no notation that he was wearing shoes. There is no mention of the position of the body—how his head, hands, or feet are positioned. I made a request for all photographs associated with the investigation, and no photos were sent of the body. There is no mention anywhere in the report of photographs taken of the body or the area around the body. There is also no mention that a search was conducted in the area around the body.

NPS investigators questioned family members and the people who James had met at the pool regarding his mental outlook and stability. Everyone questioned indicated that James was stable, and it was the feeling of NPS personnel that James did not commit suicide.

The body was sent to a mortuary and later to the coroner for an autopsy. Various blood and urine tests were sent to a laboratory for analysis. There was no alcohol or drugs found in James's system. It was the coroner's opinion that James had died of hypothermia, and he deemed the death accidental. The very peculiar aspect to the coroner's ruling is that he stated that the date of death was January 25, 2015. I can go only by facts that are presented to me, and it is a fact that the coroner stated that James died January 25, 2015—the day he was found. If the coroner truly meant this, where was James for a month? How did he survive? The majority of the coroner's report was redacted by NPS, and I was unable to understand other facets of the body's condition. I've read quite a few coroners' reports in my history as a police o icer and investigator, however; if a coroner can determine the date and time of death from decomposition, this date is then placed as the date of death.

In all the articles and reports I reviewed for this segment, I found repeated mentions of how much James loved hiking the Olympic Hot Springs trail. He must've hiked it dozens, maybe hundreds, of times. This specific hike would've been a slow one because of his injured foot. Here is a description of where James was located from a January 26, 2015, Reuters article: "A 60-year-old Washington state hiker reported missing Christmas Eve has been found dead in steep, densely

forested terrain of the Olympic National Park, a park o icial said on Monday." Barb Maynes was the park spokesman interviewed for the Reuters article. So James has an injured foot, and it is claimed that he decides to climb "in steep densely forested terrain."

Later in the same article is this: "As to why he climbed the steep hill, where his body was found, Maynes said, If it's dark and you can't see anything, it's easier to walk uphill. You're more in control.'" S AR teams searched the area around the backpack where they believed James would be. They obviously never believed that he'd be 1,700 feet uphill from the backpack in steep, dense terrain, or they would've searched it. Multiple canine teams searched the area around the backpack for several days and never picked up a scent. Almost a month after the initial search was terminated, his body was located.

James was probably sitting on a log ready to eat his Mountain House meal. He obviously wasn't in a hurry; he had stopped to prepare a meal. He was just half a mile from the parking lot. If he was cold, why not continue hiking back to the car? He probably could've made it to the parking lot in the time it took him to prepare his meal. The idea that he was hypothermic at this point is ludicrous. When you are severely hypothermic, you will be shaking, almost uncontrollably. James left the paved trail by choice. He probably knew this spot next to a creek because of its serenity. He stopped and prepared a meal. He had a smoke while he got the meal ready. Something interrupted his eating of the meal, causing him to disappear. The Tootsie Roll wrapper found on the hillside is an intriguing piece to the puzzle. The man was just about to consume a meal, so why would he eat a piece of candy on a wooded hillside? Did he consume the candy?

In Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I document cases where high levels of GHB were found in victims' systems. GHB is not something coroners normally screen for in drug tests. Families paying for secondary autopsies found these results. If James had somehow ingested high levels of GHB, he would have been immobile. He would have been cognizant of his surroundings but unable to move. If this were the case, he might have died from hypothermia from his inability to obtain warmth.

According to reports inside the NPS case file, James was cremated.

Dr. John Marshall

Missing: 01/25/15 at 5:33 a.m.—Spokane, WA

Age at Disappearance: 49 years •Physician« Previously Searched« Runner« Floating Face Up« Point of Separation« Water

This case fits perfectly into the dozens of others I have documented in Missing 411 A Sobering Coincidence. The profile is a highly educated, athletic male who disappears near water. The person sometimes goes missing in the middle of a city with hundreds of people in the surrounding area. There is never a witness to these disappearances. Sometime later, the victim is found in the water under unexplained circumstances. The county autopsy says the victim died from

freshwater drowning. In many cases, the victim's family doesn't believe the results and has a second autopsy performed by their own professionals. In the second autopsy, it is found that the victim wasn't in the water the entire time he was missing and that there were debilitating drugs in the victim's system that were never tested for by authorities. These cases were identified in multiple countries, all with nearly identical facts.

I could not locate one case of a vagrant or homeless person who was found under these conditions; it was nearly always a highly educated and athletic male.

John Marshall was a man with a very interesting background that included clinical care, residency, and tours of duty in war zones. He was a father, a husband, and the head of surgery in a Veterans A air facility.

John spent five years in the US Marines, where he was assigned to the Ninth Marines at Fort Pendleton and left as a captain. He obtained his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and went on as a general surgery resident in York, Pennsylvania. He joined the army and did a stint as a combat surgeon in Asadabad, Afghanistan. He left the army as a lieutenant colonel.

In 2005 John joined the Veterans Administration as a physician. He lived in rural Spokane with his wife, Suzan, also a physician, and their two children.

On January 25, 2015, John woke up early and started his normal morning routine. He got into his car and drove to the YMCA at 1126 N. Monroe in downtown Spokane, parked his 2012 Infiniti on the north side of the building, and entered at 5:19 a.m. He was seen carrying a backpack with his work clothes. He changed into a pair of shorts, running shoes, a coat, and gloves. He had his iPod and earphones and was caught on CCTV going out the front door a little after 5:33 a.m. for a morning run. The weather, according to the US Weather Service, was freezing fog and rain. Spokane Police later stated that the streets and sidewalks were not icy.

At 9:00 a.m., sta at the Veterans Administration Hospital were running in circles trying to find John for his scheduled surgeries. His friends and sta described him as extremely reliable and always on time. He had just recently been promoted to chief of surgery at the hospital. One of the sta members at the facility called Suzan at home at 10:16 a.m. and asked why John wasn't at work. She was surprised he wasn't

there, as he always arrived by 7:00 a.m. She drove to the YMCA and contacted the sta . They reviewed the exit tapes on the building and saw him going out the south doors for a run at 5:33 a.m. Suzan called Spokane police at 11:06 a.m. and re-ported her husband as a missing person.

Suzan told the police that she had recovered her husband's backpack from the YMCA. Inside the bag, she found his cell phone, wallet, and work clothes. She said he normally ran with his phone, and she had no idea why he didn't that day. This is a key point: many victims don't have their phones when they vanish.

Spokane police checked the Centennial Trail, contacted the county helicopter air unit, and asked for assistance in the search. The helicopter was grounded because of the heavy fog and freezing rain. The police contacted local hospitals, the jail, and the medical examiner and found John was not at any of these locations. Later in the day, investigators called the military and asked if their chopper could search the Spokane River, which flows through the city's core, for a body.

Police started to look into all aspects of John's life, as they had no idea what had happened to the man. They looked at John's phone and found that the last text sent was January 20 to Suzan. The last dialed call was January 24 to Suzan at 4:22 p.m. He had thirteen missed calls on January 25 from 8:36 a.m. to 2:44 p.m.

I requested and received a copy of the Spokane Police investigation into this incident. The clarity and professionalism of the investigation was impeccable.

On January 26 at 8:58 a.m., Spokane Emergency Services received a call from Carl Warring, who worked at 1116 Riverside #1 and had an o ice that looked over the Spokane River. On page 2 of Detective Cestnik's report are the following details: "He advised that directly below his o ice and on the north side of the river appeared to be a body in the water. He could see bare legs on the body. He said the body appears trapped. It was located just west of the Monroe Street Bridge." Spokane Fire and Police Services responded. Later in the same report were these details: "The body was located in the water near the north bank of the river approximately four hundred yards west of the Monroe Street Bridge." From the clothing on the victim, it was confirmed to be John. Later on the same page of the report was this critical detail: "He [Sergeant Storment] told me that the deceased was face up in the water." This same statement was repeated later on the same page of the report. Why is the fact that John's body was face up important? Almost all male bodies float face down in water. Finding a male's body floating face up is highly unusual, yet that fact matches the vast majority of all cases I identified in Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence. There are no answers for why few bodies float face up.

Spokane police called the coroner, who sent investigator Elizabeth Nelson to the scene. She arrived at 10:36 a.m. Page 2 of Detective Lesser's report had this detail listed just after the coroner investigator arrived: "I also took photos of the device (probably a device used to listen to music) that was protruding out of the victims left jacket pocket." Keep in mind that Lesser documented this, as it comes into play later. Also make note that it was sticking out of the pocket in plain view.

The coroner's investigator took John's body to their o ice for autopsy. Dr. Howard of the coroner's o ice did the autopsy. He found that John had a broken sternum and two broken ribs. He had a few other scratches but no other injuries. Dr. Howard did not release a cause of death for several weeks until he had drug and alcohol results. John's wife contacted Dr. Howard on several occasions, and the primary detective on the case appeared to have had multiple communications with him as well. The general course of the conversations dealt with the ruling on the cause of death. The coroner eventually ruled that John had died from asphyxia due to drowning, and the secondary cause was pulmonary edema. Detectives were asking many questions, as they appeared to be confused as to why John was in the river and what had caused him to die. They searched the embankments, bridge railings, and every other conceivable area where someone may go in the river several times. They never found a location where they were convinced he fell or stumbled in. Detective Cestnik wrote a report on February 16,2015, that stated the following:

On 2/15/15 I responded to the Spokane Police Property facility and again examined John's clothing. I was again looking to see if there was any evidence that he may have hit any rocks or concrete in the river. As mentioned in a previous report, I would expect to see some mud or vegetation/moss on his clothing if this had occurred.

I did not see anything to indicate this had happened. If he did go over the falls in the Spokane River, he did so without hitting or touching any rocks that had been in the water for an extended period of time.

You can tell the detective is ba led he didn't find the vegetation. He went on to say that, at the point where people may have stumbled into the river, the water is shallow, and people would just stand up. In an e-mail February 16, 2015, Detective Cestnik said to Suzan Marshall, "There is more that doesn't make sense in this case than does."

On February 16, 2015, Detective Cestnik told Suzan's brother, "As I

have told Suzan, my concern is that there was nothing on his clothing to indicate he went over the falls (moss, mud, scrapes, etc.). I have worked many of these and this would be the first time I hadn't seen that. Also, his earbuds were still attached to his iPod in his pocket. I would have expected them to detach going over the falls."

The detectives continued to scour the neighborhood between where John started his run and the area around the river. They could never find one witness who saw anything related to John's going in the river.

This is a recurring fact in every case I researched for Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence.

In another report authored by Detective Cestnik was this: "On 04/14/2015 I did check the iPod out from SPD property and I took it to Ofc Sniker in TARU. He found that the iPod was able to be examined, but it was completely frozen. He was able to do a Celebraite Extraction of the device, and he confirmed that this was only a MP3 player. It did not have a GPS, did not have a history button to show how long it had been running previously, and it did not have any personal information on it."

John's wife was a trained physician and believed her husband had not fallen into the water and died on his own. She hired private investigator Ted Pulver to investigate.

Ted Pulver was a former sheri 's deputy and detective and had the background Suzan needed to dig deep into John's death. When I heard Ted had been hired, I called him, and we had multiple conversations. One of the first times we talked, he told me that this was one of the strangest cases he had ever worked. The circumstances of the event didn't make sense to him, and the facts weren't adding up.

The episode of the TV show "Crime Watch" aired December 13, 2016, focused on John's death. The show's team presented a balanced approach to the story but seemed to lean on the side of Ted and Suzan indicating that something unusual had happened. They interviewed forensic examiner Josiah Rulo , whom Ted had hired to research the MP3 player John had been carrying in his pocket. Rulo stated that he had taken the player apart and had not found any water in it; he could find no evidence that it had been submerged in water. Think about this statement. The player was sticking out of his pocket. How could the player be sticking out of his pocket and not be soaked if he had tumbled down the river or falls?

Mr. Pulver claimed evidence shows that John was put in the place where he was found. He said it appeared that this had been a professional military-type hit. In a December 31, 2016, article in the Spokesman Review, reporters compared Pulver's findings with those of the police: "Ted Pulver, the private investigator, said the findings of the police investigation 'defy common sense.' He added, 'common sense dictates our findings are more in line with logic and deduction.'"

The medical examiner claimed that John had died from accidental drowning. He believed John's body was in the river for twenty-seven hours, yet the MP3 player never got wet. How would this happen in a rough river? The headline for the article I quoted above was this: "VA doctor's death remains unsolved mystery."

In the same article quoted above is this note that Detective Brian Cestnik wrote in his final report: "As of this time, I cannot say for certain what caused the death of John Marshall. I cannot eliminate accident or suicide as the cause of death. Though I have not found any evidence that anyone else was involved in the death of Marshall, I also cannot definitively eliminate the possibility that he was the victim of foul play."

If you have never read Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, this case may not seem totally relevant to my work. This case could come from the same cookie cutter as every other case in that book. Imagine you were John's killer. Who in their right mind would risk being identified walking down the bank of the river and putting John's body in while in the center of the city? He was found in the middle of the downtown area, yet nobody saw his body anywhere in the city during the previous twenty-seven hours. The area where the body was found had been walked and searched many times in the hours before he was located. As hundreds of readers in the past have said, and as Ted Pulver claimed in this case, the body was placed in the position where it was found. How did John disappear o the streets of Spokane without anybody seeing him? Where was he for twenty-seven hours?

On April 14, 2016, Detective Cestnik wrote this in his report: "I have not found any evidence at this time indicating where or why John Marshall entered the Spokane River." The detective stated that he had found no evidence that anyone on the periphery of the investigation was involved in John's death. He investigated John's wife, acquaintances, and friends. It is very difficult to have a wide-eyed perspective on circumstances in a death if you have worked many similar cases in the past. I give credit to Cestnik for continuing to dig when he could've easily claimed John fell into the river and died.

Cestnik knew there was something missing in this puzzle.

I want readers to keep these relevant facts in their minds when they think about this case:

Inclement weather—fog and freezing rain kept the sheriff's helicopter on the ground and out of the search.

For some unknown reason, John left his cell phone in the gym.

He was found in a location that had been searched previously.

He was found floating face up.

The MP3 player was dry. Police could not find a definitive location where it appeared he had gone in the water.

He had no alcohol or drugs in his system.

One item Detective Cestnik left on the table for a cause of death was suicide, but I don't agree. If someone wanted to jump off a bridge into the river, why change into running gear, take out your MP3 player, plug in your earbuds, and go out for a run? John was doing exactly what was part of his daily routine. The reports indicated police interviewed nearly everyone associated with him at work. There wasn't one person who stated that John was suicidal or depressed. It was true that he and Suzan were going through marriage counseling, but that's pretty normal. Millions of couples go through counseling daily. Marriage counseling does not equal suicide. The police also spoke at length in their reports about the Marshalls' financial issues. Again, financial issues don't equal suicide. John had just been promoted to chief of surgery and had received a substantial raise. He was the father of two young kids and was involved in their lives. If there was one item I had issue with in the police report, it was the possibility that this was suicide—no way.

Jerry Hyasman

Missing: October 4, 2016, Grays Harbor County Age at Disappearance: 55 Years Old

Mushroom Picker* Water* Disability* Point of Separation

Jerry Hyasman was a member of the Quinault Nations Tribe and lived in Tahocah, fourteen miles north of Capolis Beach in Grays County. He lived with his mother.

Jerry lost his left eye several years ago and has successfully lived with the disability. He lived with his mother.

On the morning of October 4, 2016, Jerry told his mom he would make her breakfast after he went mushroom picking with a friend. He drove his car from Tahocah to Capolis Beach Road, continued until just west of Keal Road, and parked at the gates of an old logging Road. This location is approximately 7000' west of the Pacific Ocean and a known location for mushroom picking.

Jerry and his friend picked mushrooms until his friend told him that he had to walk home to use the restroom. His friend did not return. Sometime after the friend left, Jerry vanished.

Jerry was reported as a missing person when he didn't return home. Law enforcement located his vehicle right where it was parked.

MISSING

Have you seen this Man?

Name: Jerry Hyasman

Nickname: Jerry Pies

Age: 56

Race: Native American

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black/Grey

Height: 5' 7"

Weight: 180 lbs

Missing Since: Tues. 10/4/16

Identifying Characteristics:

Tribal Tattoo on arm, Left

Artificial Eye

Medical Concerns: Heart Issues, bad eyesight.

f you have any information

Please Contact:

Grays Harbor County Sheriff (360) 533-8765

Taholah Police Department (360) 276-4422

The Grays County Sheriff's Office took the lead on the SAR. Quinault Tribal Police and several other local jurisdictions supported it. There is a Facebook Page that is in support of finding Jerry. This post clarified that Grays County utilized canines and cadaver dogs to find Jerry Hyasman. The initial SAR lasted ten days; friends and relatives of Jerry's then supported an additional week's search.

The area of this search is thick with ground cover. It is very close to the Pacific Ocean. I have gone with Native Americans and was taught how to look for mushrooms, where to look, and the good and bad types. I would never pick mushrooms alone; I don't trust my knowledge on the topic.

I have documented many mushroom pickers that have vanished under very unusual circumstances. To succeed as a picker, you must always look down; you aren't looking at your surroundings. You may not be aware of a predator coming up on you. In every missing picker case, there was never any evidence of animal predation; there is very little evidence of what may have happened. When you read about the disappearance of mushroom picker Hildegard Hendrickson, you were told about one of the most experienced pickers in the State of Washington. She disappeared under one of the most unusual sets of circumstances imaginable.

I don't know what is happening to mushroom pickers, but I recommend that they stay close together in pairs. Jerry was never found.

Kris Fowler

Missing: October 12, 2016, White Pass

Age at Disappearance: 34 Years

Water* Weather* Cluster Zone* Canines

If there is one example of why every hiker hitting the trail alone should carry a personal locator beacon, this is it!

Kris Fowler was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and lived in Beavercreek, Ohio. He was raised in Day-ton, Ohio. He had a degree in Business Marketing Communication and had recently been married and worked for a local trucking company. His company decided to move out of state and offered to take Kris with them, but he declined, not wanting to move. In this same timeframe, he went through a difficult divorce.

Fowler was looking for a life adventure and found it by hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). He looked at a map and plotted a path where he would have packages of supplies sent to him at specific locations along the trail.

In May 2016, the adventure started; he went to the PCT trailhead near Mexico and started the 2,653-mile hike to Canada alone.

MISSING HIKER

Kris Fowler (Sherpa) NB PCT Through Hiker
Last seen 10 / 12 / 2016 White Pass, WA

(Take note of gear/colors)

(At White Pass, day last seen)

Age: 36 Eyes: Blue Hair: Blond Height: 6'2"
Weight: 170 (Last seen with full beard & mustache)

List of missing equipment:

1. Green Thermarest ZRest
2. Solo stove "Light"
3. Blue tarp
4. Chaco sandals, size 12 & Clampons
5. Big Agnes Fairview 1 tent (Tan/Brown), Rainfly (Yellow/Orange and Gray/ Blue
6. Watch (Unknown MFG & color)
7. LG AT&T white cell phone
8. North Face blue down sleeping bag (Kept in compression sack) DOWN
9. Black ULA Catalyst backpack with orange side panels
10. Black Eddie Bauer Weatheredge light weight rain coat
11. Red / Black hammock
12. OTHER ITEMS: Bandanas (Red, Dark blue, Light blue, Map design, Tan), Beanies (Green), Tennis shoes, Fingerless gloves, Neoprene gloves & toe socks.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT BEING SOUGHT-AFTER

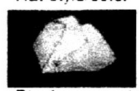
Chaco sandals

Blue tarp

Hat style/color

Brown/Tan tarp or tent footprint

Red/Black hammock



Big Agnes tent

Solo "Light" stove

Blue sleeping bag

If you have any information regarding this person or their equipment, PLEASE leave equipment at location, take a picture, mark your coordinates, note the brands/color/sizes then contact us at info@wsiint.org or Sally Fowler at sallyfowler1@icloud.com . Thank You!

Please help us to help the families of the missing by donating to the cause. We are a registered 501(c)(3) company. Visit us at www.wsiint.org

Kris Folwer could be described as an intelligent, physically fit at life's crossroads. Getting back to nature and challenging his skills and fitness would be something he could focus on. He was also an amateur photographer and would keep his family updated along the path with calls, Facebook posts, and photos. The Pacific Crest Trail is a long-changing landscape that offers peace, serenity, and a bit of companionship when needed. Thousands of people make the PCT trek yearly, some only hiking a few miles.

On October 11,2016, Kris got off the trail, went to Packwood,

Washington, and worked a day for a local motel for a night's lodging. The next morning, he got a ride to the Cracker Barrel Market and gas station on White Pass. He was aware that a strong storm was incoming in two days. However, the people that gave him a ride did come forward and stated he was anxious to hit the trail and get hiking.

Fowler got on the PCT at White Pass with 400 miles left. He turned his cell phone off one hour into the hike down the trail. The area around White Pass has many small lakes, creeks, and water sources. It is important to note that the pass is just fifteen miles southeast of Mount Rainier National Park.

On October 31, 2016, Kris' stepmom had been waiting to hear from him for over two weeks, had not heard anything, and filed a missing person report with the Yakima County Sheriff. Everyone knew Kris had not contacted anyone for over 14 days, which was troublesome.

Two days after Kris entered the PCT at White Pass, it was confirmed that one of the most significant storms in many years had dumped two feet of snow on the pass.

The Yakima County Sheriff enlisted the assistance of King, Pierce, Chelan, Snohomish, Okanogan County search and rescue, and deputies. They also obtained the services of the county's helicopters, ground pounders, and canines. The SAR commander stated that every available search and rescue resource was utilized to locate Kris. Multiple searches at different times in 2016 combed many areas of the PCT north of White Pass. Everything was futile.

The Fowler family knew that Kris had planned for the delivery of packages to his next two stops, the Chevron Gas Station at Snoqualmie Pass and the next would be The Goats Beard in Mazama. The family went to these locations and found that there were no packages there for Kris. The confusing point was that they needed to find out if Kris had picked them up, if they never arrived, or if they were stolen. A few of these locations had a notoriety for not getting packages to hikers. It was never determined what happened to the boxes.

There were many reports that Kris was seen at various locations throughout Washington. These types of sightings are typical when a case gets lots of publicity, as this did. It makes it very difficult for law enforcement to know which claim was valid and which was a good citizen making a misidentification.

I must say something about the PCT, the Appalachian Trail, and other long trails. Many of these treks are taken by young people, innocent individuals who don't understand the dangers associated with being on a popular route. There have been murders on these trails and other associated crimes. You will always be safer in a group. I encourage anyone considering this journey to get a satellite phone, personal locator beacon and find someone to take the trip with you.

Kris did many things correctly. He mapped the trip, had packages delivered at strategic times and locations along the route, and had a cell phone to contact his family and friends. One big issue is that cell phones only work along some routes. Kris went off trail; he would've been located if he had been on the path. As of the writing of this book, he has been missing for seven years, so he must've traveled far off-trail; otherwise, his equipment and remains would've been found.

Kris's dad was very involved in the search for his son. In an unbelievable turn of events, Mr. Fowler died in 2017 of cancer, no doubt dying from a broken heart.

As of the publishing of this manuscript, Kris' equipment and his remains have yet to be located.

Melvin Burtch

Missing: October 25, 2016, Table Top Mountain Age at Disappearance: 31 Years Old

Weather* Water* Suspicious Fall* Missing Clothing

Melvin Burtch was a true American Patriot. On his Facebook site, he asks friends to post the American flag on their site. Mr. Burtch did two combat tours for the United States Army. He continued his service in the military by becoming an MRI technologist for the O ice of Veteran A airs in Beaverton, Oregon, the place he also called home.

On October 25, 2016, Melvin agreed to dog sit his friend's two dogs while traveling north to Table Top Mountain across the Columbia River into Washington. He took the dogs with him as he climbed the 3,417' to the summit.

Melvin made the summit, took a selfie, and sent it to his friend. Finally, he said he was coming back down; that's the last time anyone heard from Mr. Burtch.

On the morning of October 25, an employee of Bonneville Hot Springs was at the trailhead and found two dogs next to Melvin's car. The employee identified the owner of the dogs, called them, and they determined that Melvin had to be missing. The Skamania County Sheri was called.

The sheri 's department pinged Melvin's phone and determined it was near the mountain's base. They obtained the assistance of the United States Air Force Portland Para-Rescue Team (PJ's), and they responded to assist.

As rescuers entered the area of the phone, they were faced with fog and heavy rain. They searched the area for several hours and located Melvin's body fifty feet from the phone. Skamania County Sheri made this statement on a live news feed, "It is extremely sad because we're not going to have any idea what happened up there or why it happened." One article stated, "It is believed that Burtch perished from injuries he sustained from a possible 700-foot fall." I read this statement five times. If someone fell 700 feet, the injuries would be blatantly obvious.

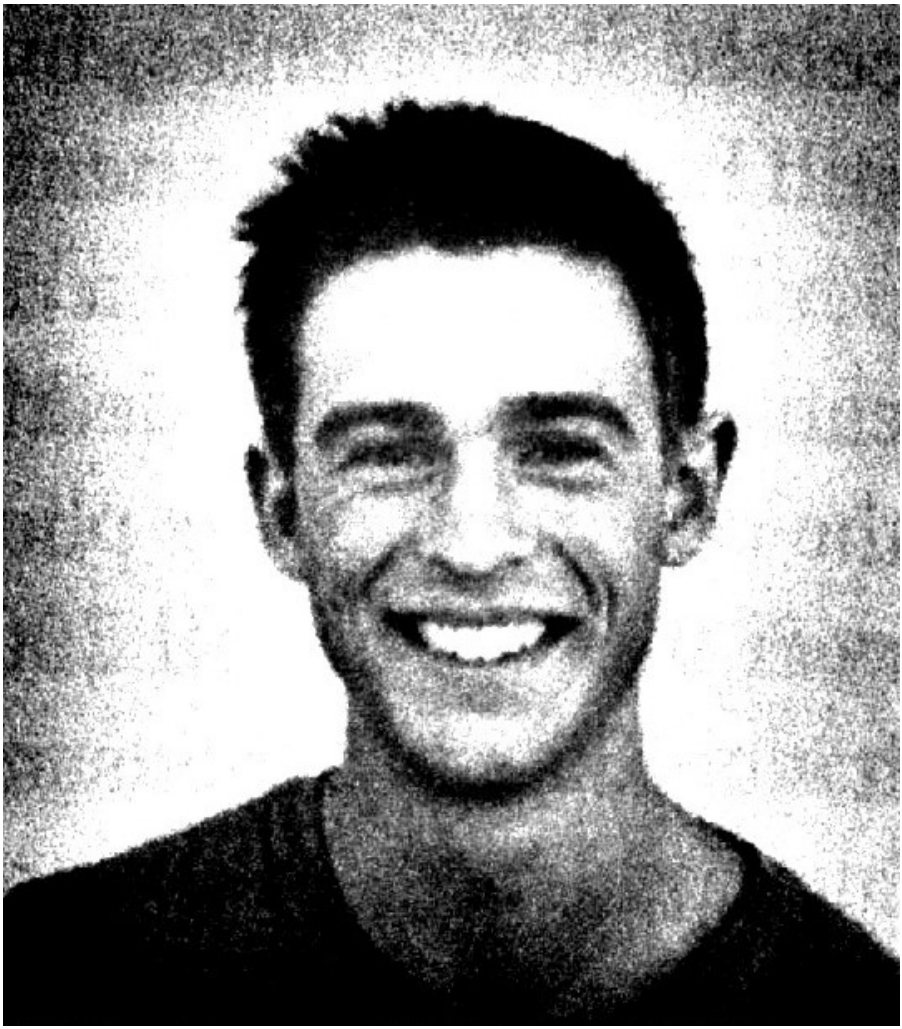
At the time of this incident, one YouTube post explained the condition of Burtch's body. It stated that he was found naked without shoes. If he was found in this condition, now I understand why the sheri was so vague about what happened.

The state of Washington has a mandatory disclosure law on all government documents. On April 8, 2017, I sent a document request to the Skamania County sheri for all photos and documents associated with the recovery of Melvin's body. I waited three weeks and sent it again. I got a confirmation they received it two times, but they have yet to respond. I still have the document I sent. There was never a release from the coroner on the cause of Melvin's death. I am also very interested in the condition of his phone; it was an iPhone. I'm sorry if that phone fell 700 feet and landed in the rocks, it would be in a thousand pieces, but it was still pinging and led searchers to the body.

The more I learned about the circumstances of this case, the more I understood the sheri 's hesitancy to confirm the fall killed Melvin.

If you have yet to watch "Missing 411 The UFO Connection", you must do that now. I am interested in this case because I have investigated several incidents where people allegedly fell, but the facts did not add up after researching the incident.

There is much more to this story, and therein lies the reason the sheri won't address my request for the report.



Jacob Gray

Missing: 04/05/17, Olympic National Park

Age at disappearance: 22 years

Cluster Zone • Canines • Water • National Park

Olympic National Park is one of the most beautiful, rugged, and lush parks I've visited. Even though it gets more than 3 million visitors a year, I've never felt the park was packed with people. It is spread out with multiple access points that thin out the tourists. The park sits on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, almost completely surrounded by water. Not only is there a lot of water outside and surrounding the

park, but it also gets significant precipitation, and this leads to many rivers and creeks that allow elk, deer, bear and many other mammals to subsist in its interior.

I was aware of this case just after it happened; what shook me was a phone call from the father bringing home the point that another young man had disappeared.

Jacob Gray was all American kid. He grew up in surf city, Santa Cruz California, a location I lived for 12 years. It sits on the north end of Monterey Bay, is famous for its surfing, seafood, and is home to thousands of people who commute daily to Silicon Valley. The University of California sits on the hill on top of the city and is home to the “slugs,” their mascot.

Jacob was an athlete who loved to surf. To be a good surfer and survive the Pacific Ocean during the winter, you need to be a very good swimmer, which he was. In 2013, he graduated from Santa Cruz High School and worked a short while as a carpenter with his dad, Randy. There was a point he wanted to possibly be an actor or model, something he meddled in for a little while. As he got older, he told his dad that he either wanted to be a fireman or paramedic, ironically a group of people that would be searching for him later in life.

In early April of 2017, Jacob was visiting his grandmother in Port Angeles, Washington and de-cided to take a bike trip in Olympic National park to camp. He was an experienced outdoorsman and camper, bad weather and cold conditions never bothered him, heck, he was swimming in the 50-degree Monterey Bay as a kid. On April 5, he left his grandmother’s home towing his camping gear behind his bike and rode to Sol Duc Hot Springs Road o the Olympic Highway. He traveled southeast on the road into the park. This is a beautiful ride along the Sol Duc River. There would not have been a lot of tra ic, but this road has notoriety for visitors going to the Sol Duc hot springs further up the canyon.

On April 6, 2017, a ranger found Jacob’s bike, trailer, and some belongings stu ed in a bush adjacent to the river 6.5 miles up Sol Duc Road. Nobody was around. They found his wallet and personal items in the bags and were able to track down a relative from the contact information they located. A hasty search was performed by a national park ranger on April 6 and 7; nothing was found. A hasty search is a quick look around without significant resources.

Randy and Laura Gray were divorced, and Laura was living in

Washington. On April 9, she called her ex-husband informing him that Jacob had disappeared in the Park. She told her ex that the river was too high for a comprehensive search. Randy left the following day and was in the park on April 11.

The national park did not commit significant resources to looking for Jacob because they stated they were short-handed searching for another missing person and a lost plane. They explained that they had 36 National Park Police O icers in 2013 and only 12 then. Randy heard this and rallied the Clallam County Search and Rescue Association. There were almost 100 people on the scene in days and organized in a SAR. A request was made to use dogs to check the trails for scent and drones to scan the river. The parks said that they could not use drones on their property and they didn't respond to the request for using canines; Randy was irate, as were fellow searchers. They posted a petition at Change.org demanding search dogs be used for Jacob's SAR e ort. The document stated that the decision for using dogs was being delayed for a reason that is not being communicated and human life was in limbo. They needed the dogs on the scene to follow the scent. There were several comments that it rained intermittently during the search with large fluctuations in the temperature. The community around the park was starting to feel that this search wasn't as well organized as it should be. A local reporter filed a FOIA request for the search protocols in the park. The response was placed in the May 7, 2017, edition of the Peninsula Daily News, "Olympic National Park does not have park-specific written guidelines or policy related to missing per-sons so uses the National Park Service Policy," ONP Acting Superintendent Lee Taylor wrote to the Peninsula Daily News in response to a FOIA Request." Later in the same article is this, "He said ONP has a SAR program and that it maintains SAR equipment but doesn't have specific procedures for SAR in the park." This response made searchers disappointed, yet probably explained the disorganized and slow response to many issues.

Canines were eventually allowed to search on both sides of the river. There was some indication on log jams at three locations there may have been a hit, nothing was located. There was a searcher who stated that it appeared Jacob might have fallen in the river near his bike. They searched the other side and believed they found another location where someone came out. Both banks were checked extensively, and nothing was located. If there was anyone who could've fallen in the swollen river, swam to the other side and survived, it would've been that young man.

An inventory of what was missing from his trailer was as follows,

camouflage backpack, Hudson's Bay Point blanket, forest green hooded du le coat with toggle buttons, blue Montbell Thunder Pass jacket, charcoal colored Montbell Thunder Pass pants, rust Carhartt dungaree pants, a tan beanie, gray Nike shoes, and a water filtration tool. This is an interesting mix of equipment and clothing.

The Clallam County Sheri 's Rescue Team stayed with the search longer than the park. They put thirty people and six dog teams on both sides of the river looking for any evidence of Jacob and found nothing. The park pulled back their resources on April 14, Clallam County pulled back on the 16th. There were additional searches throughout the year as the water flow slowed. None of the other e orts found anything related to Jason.

The public response to the national park about a lack of search protocol wasn't favorable for their image. They responded by saying that they did have a "draft plan it uses for search and rescue." The response seemed more like a public relations ploy than to clarify a search protocol.

Several weeks after the search had subsided and Randy was back in his Santa Cruz home, he contacted me. He explained the di iculties he had with park personnel and their reluctance to o er the assistance that he believed was needed. He told me that the family got special permission from a Coast Guard Representative to send their heat-seeking helicopter based in Seattle, to the park to look for Jacob. Randy said to me that the park service would not allow the chopper to fly over their property.

Let's quickly review the obstacles faced by this family from the park service. First, the park stated they did not have a SAR protocol. Searchers request canines to respond and look for the missing person, the request is delayed, and no answer is given for an extended period. The family has the resources to get approval for a Coast Guard helicopter to look for their son, the request is denied. If I were the Grays, I'd be livid.

Nothing happened on this incident until August 10, 2018. A group of Marmot biologists attached to the national park service were near Hoh Lake, ten miles from the Sol Duc Trailhead. This area is called the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness in Olympic National Park. The group located human skeletal remains that were later identified as Jacob's. The park service stated the remains were not in a campsite, but did not provide any further details. I have great compassions for the Gray's and their loss.

The location that Jacob was found makes no sense. He left all of his supplies behind and they want us to believe he hiked ten miles in horrific weather and laid down to die. Jacob was an experienced hiker. This does not add up.

There is nothing of more value than human life, I cannot think of one reason to deny a helicopter of canines to search for an individual and possibly save their life. The park service's response to Mr. Gray's requests was appalling.

Samantha Sayers

Missing: August 1, 2018-6pm, Vesper Peak, WA

Age at Disappearance: 27 Years Old

Point of Separation* Boulders* Caines* Disability

Samantha Sayers was raised and graduated from high school in Girard, Pennsylvania. She was a victim of an auto-immune a liction, alopecia, the loss of all your hair. At one point in high school, she wore a wig, and people would look at her oddly. She addressed the issue head-on, talked to the students about it, and removed her wig. I am sure many students were quite surprised by Samantha's revelation.

Ms. Sayers graduated from high school, attended the State University of New York at Fredonia, and majored in Technical Theater. In addition, the theatrical major worked at Playground Summer Camp for young kids during her summer months, a job she loved. She graduated with a degree in Theater.

After college, Samantha got a job at the Repertory Theater in Seattle. After working in Theater for some time, she left for a series of odd jobs.

Samantha eventually met her boyfriend, Kevin Dares. He was working in real estate, and Samantha was doing part-time work. They quickly got close and made it a committed relationship.

The couple loved the outdoors and enjoyed hitting the trail and seeing wildlife. Both were in terrific shape and were well acquainted with the outdoors and would be considered very experienced day hikers.

In the summer of 2018, Kevin and Samantha were living together.

On July 31, Samantha said she would take a ten- hour day hike the

following day. She said she'd leave early the next day, headed for Vesper Peak, and be o the mountain between 5-6 pm. This was a very typical hike for the college graduate. This was a peak she had summitted in the past, and it was something she knew would be easy.

Early on August 1, 2018, Samantha said goodbye to Kevin, got into her blue Ford Fiesta, drove to Sunrise Mine Trailhead, parked the car, and grabbed her day pack. Hikers confirmed that they saw Samantha on the trail alone. One hiker stated they had lunch with Samantha and saw her at the summit of Vesper Peak at 3 pm. It was a three-hour hike from the summit of Vesper to the parking lot at the trailhead. Sayers was believed to leave the peak at approximately 3 pm, but nobody saw her afterward.

Vesper Peaks summit is at 6200'. The trail is a switchback through boulder fields. On August 1, hikers would have seen smoke from fires on the horizon.

Kevin expected a call from Samantha when she was at the trailhead, but the call never came. He stated that at seven or 7:15 pm, he knew something was very wrong and was in his car headed for Vesper.

Kevin arrived at the trailhead at 10 pm, exited his car, and saw Samantha's Ford Fiesta parked in the trailhead parking lot. He immediately knew that something had happened. He ran up the trail calling her name, looking for a hint of what had happened. Dares searched the path for three hours and found nothing. At 1 am on August 2, he called the Snohomish County Sheri reporting Samantha Sayers as missing.

Sergeant John Adams from Snohomish County arrived at the trailhead at 1:30 am. Kevin explained the circumstances of Samantha being missing, and Sgt. Adams started a lengthy process of calling volunteer search and rescue personnel.

This is for you if you are a new reader of my work. Volunteers do 95% of all search and rescue, people like you and me. They get certified as a search and rescue volunteer, join a county SAR and make themselves available for a callout at the spur of the moment.

Sgt. Adams authorized a SAR callout, and the message went out for members to arrive at Vesper Peak at 6 am that morning. Search headquarters were designated the Big Four Ice Caves at Spada Lake on Vesper's southeast side.

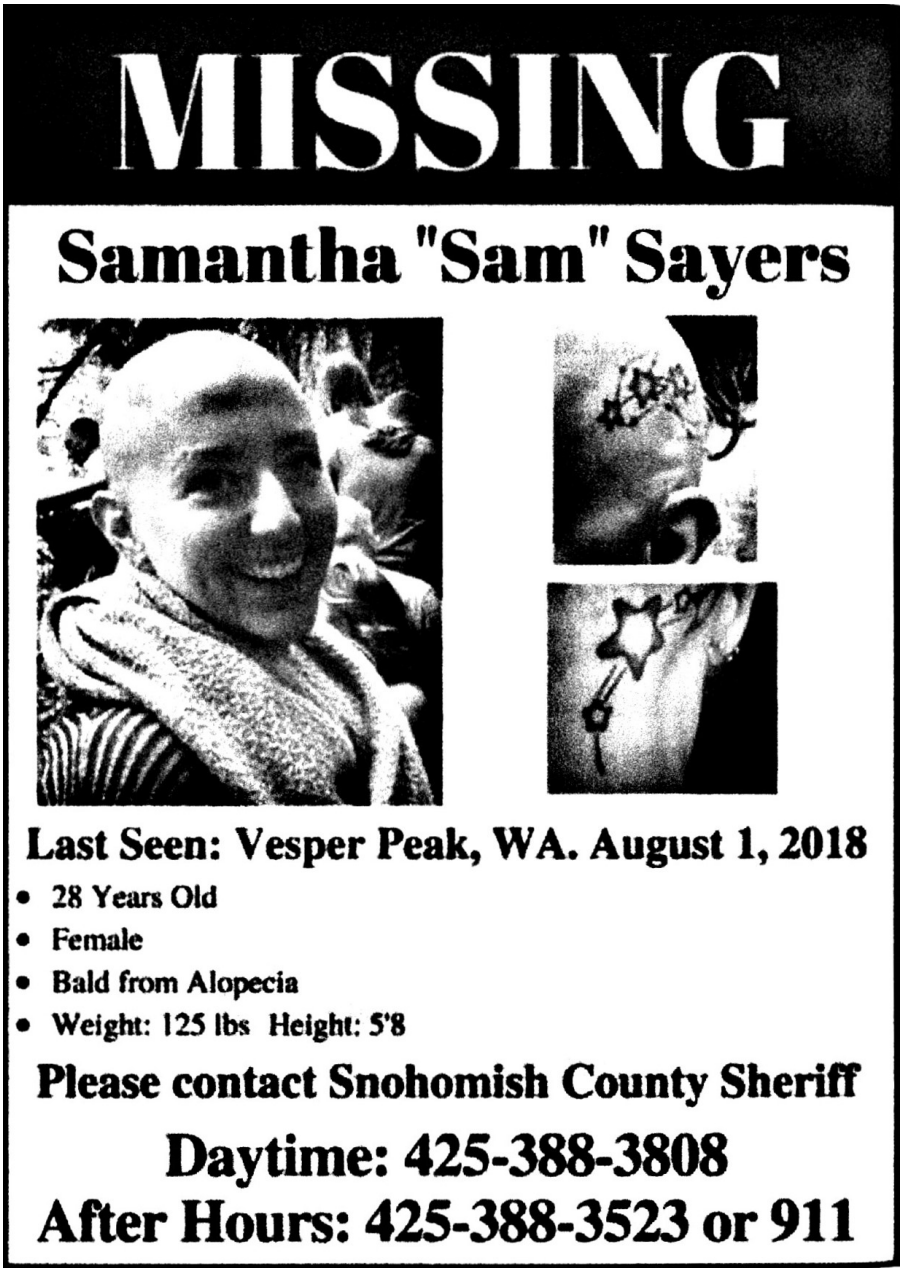
On August 2 at 6 am, the o icial start to the SAR had begun.

Kevin explained that Samantha wore a maroon hoodie, a blue backpack, two hiking poles, and a beige sun hat. Physically she was described to be 5’8” and weighed 125 pounds. She was in excellent physical condition and could be easily identified as she had no hair.

Vesper Peak is located in the Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and forty air miles from Seattle and 25 miles directly east of Everett.

The search for Samantha was very comprehensive. Snohomish County was able to get three search k-9s to the peak and searching immediately. They did not pick up a scent. A mutual aid plea was made, and Kings County sent their helicopter. Snohawkl was equipped with FLIR and flew the mountain for 33 hours, a phenomenal amount of time.

Samantha’s parents, Ron and Lisa, were advised that their daughter was missing and immediately decided to fly to Seattle.


MISSING
Samantha "Sam" Sayers
Last Seen: Vesper Peak, WA. August 1, 2018
• 28 Years Old
• Female
• Bald from Alopecia
• Weight: 125 lbs Height: 5'8
Please contact Snohomish County Sheriff
Daytime: 425-388-3808
After Hours: 425-388-3523 or 911

Each day of the search got more frustrating. I was stunned to see that the formal S AR lasted three weeks, an unbelievable amount of time to commit to finding someone. The average SAR in 2018 was 7-9 days. Please remember that most people on the mountain looking for Sayers were volunteers. People have jobs, commitments, and obligations, and after 7-10 days, most everyone has to return to their life. It helped that this happened close to Seattle, a considerable population zone

where new searchers could be pulled.

The formal SAR for Samantha Sayers was terminated on August 23, 2018.

Here are the totals of what SAR completed:

357 hours of air operations

105 hours of drone use

82 hours of utilizing the marine unit in lakes 8000 hours of SAR members on the mountain

The investigation showed that nobody saw Samantha come down the mountain. Sergeant John Adams told the press that he believed Samantha was somewhere on the Vesper near the summit.

While the formal SAR was being terminated, Kevin Dares organized his own SAR. He rallied six other searchers, a helicopter, and a search dog, Raven. The dog and its handler spent 39 days on Vesper Peak looking in crevasses, cracks, and every imaginable location.

Kevin Dares is a rare breed. I have known few people to commit to finding someone, as Kevin has been to locate his girlfriend. This man has my admiration for his determination.

It has been over four years, and Samantha has yet to be located.

After one of the most comprehensive searches I have ever reviewed and knowing the exact peak she was in, it is beyond odd that she wasn't found.

My prayers go out to Kevin, Ron, and Lisa.

Victor Djie

Missing June 19, 2020, Mount Rainier National Park Age at Disappearance: 24 Years old

Cluster Zone* Weather* Canines

It is unusual to have someone from Indonesia on our missing person profile. Victor Djie was born and raised on the island and came to the United States for quality education and life. Various articles stated that he was still in school, but I could not find that. I did locate his Linked-In Profile, which said he had an MBA from Loyola Marymount,

graduating in 2018. In 2019 he landed a job as a Production Associate for West Seattle Foods. This is what it stated about Victor on that profile, “Responsible, motivated, and team-oriented with experience in the marketing mix of products and compiling big data into reports and presentations. Highly educated, possessing a Bachelor’s and recently acquired a Master’s degree in Business Administration. Bilingual in English and Indonesian, with an intermediate understanding of Chinese and conversational Japanese.”

In June 2020, Victor took time o work and planned a hiking vacation at Mount Rainier National Park. Victor drove his BMW 528i from the Seattle area to the mountain he saw nearly daily. Mount Rainier is like a giant beacon for residents of Seattle.

An investigation by the National Park Service verified that hikers observed Victor on June 18, 2020, on the Alta Vista Trail outside of Paradise. He spent that night at Alexanders Lodge, located near the park’s Nisqually District adjacent to the Nisqually River. The lodge is located just outside the park on its southwest side.

At 10:00 am on June 19, Victor checked out of his hotel and entered the park driving to Paradise. He parked his car and entered the Van Trump Trail. The park service confirmed that several hikers saw Djie on the Van Trump Trail on the afternoon of the 19th.

Victor Djie was supposed to return home the night of the 19th and never made it. He was reported missing that evening.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mount Rainier National Park

55210 238th Ave E
Ashford, WA 98304

Mount Rainier National Park Missing Person

Name: Vincent Djie

Last seen: Alexanders Lodge, Ashford, WA, June 19, 2020, 10:00 am
Seen on Alta Vista Trail at Paradise, Mount Rainier National Park, June 2020. His vehicle was found on June 22, 2020, at Longmire.

1

Description: 24-year-old male, about 5'5". black hair, brown eyes.

Clothing: Last seen wearing a blue t-shirt, black pants, and a dark blue draw-string backpack.

If you have seen Vincent or have any information about his whereabouts, please call 360-569-6683.

The National Park Police did find Victor's BMW in the parking lot in Longmire. The investigation showed that the missing man was wearing black pants, a blue and white tie-dye shirt, and he was carrying a small backpack. The park service committed significant resources to find Victor. This June 26 article on the KOMO News site had details, "On Thursday, searchers were joined by technical rescue teams combing the Longmire area in steep, dangerous terrain. So far, 31 rescue members are looking on the ground with search dogs while

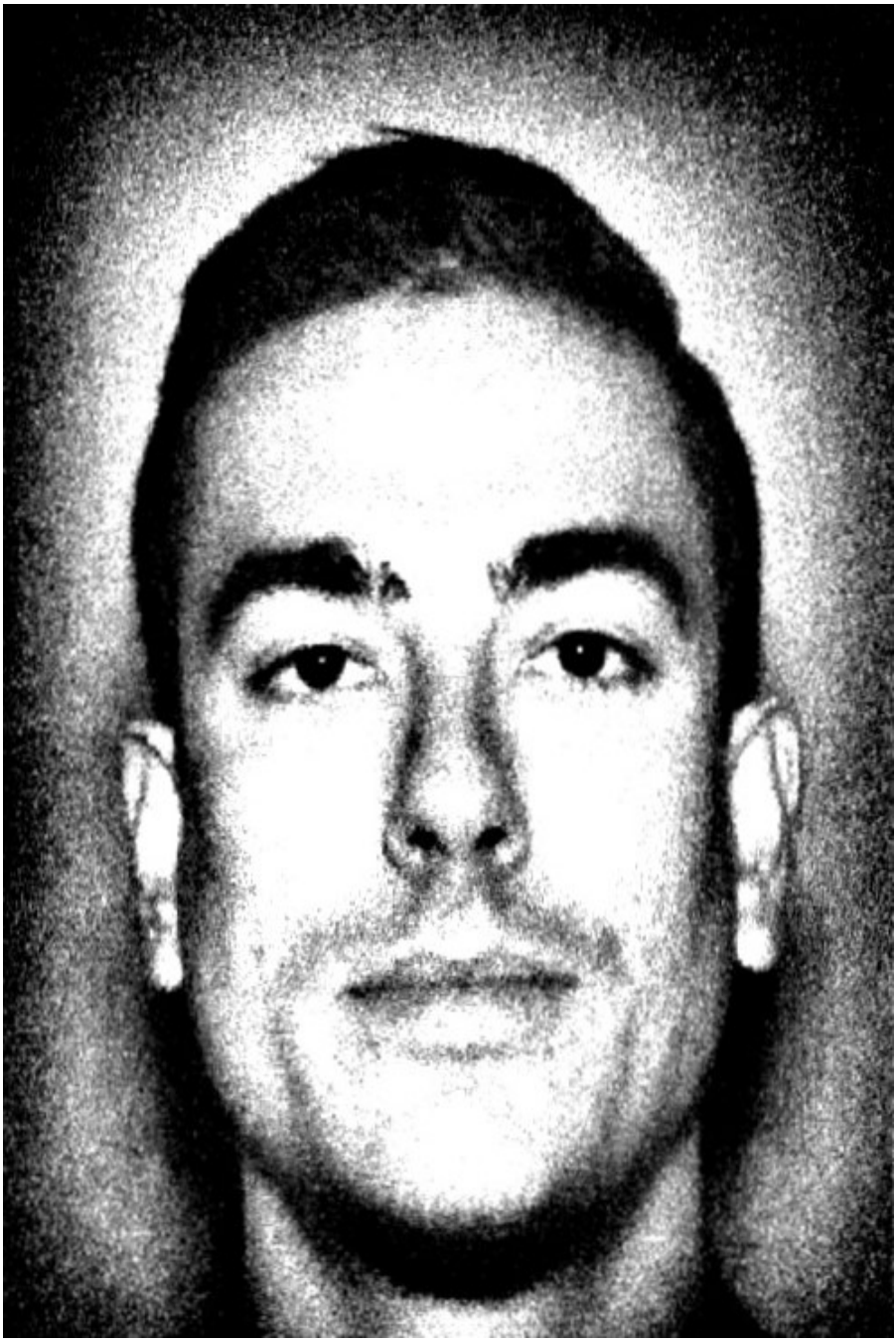
helicopters continue an aerial search."

There was a week-long search from the ground and air for Victor Djie, but nothing was found.

The next additional push to locate Victor's body included multiple searches by a private S AR organization. The following is a post on the Jon Francis Foundation website, "The Jon Francis Foundation (JFF) will lead our third search for Victor Djie. Victor went missing in June 2020 while on a day hike in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington State. JFF will deploy seven search dogs and handlers and several ground searchers beginning on August 1, 2022." Later in the same post is this, "Victor's parents, Hengky and Rina Djie, will fly from Indonesia to be present as we assemble again to begin our e ort to resolve their unresolved loss."

The summer of 2020 was a deadly year for hikers in Mount Rainier National Park. The profile of the missing was always the same, young, healthy men in their twenties. In an undated post on the National Park website about Victor was this, "He, along with 3 other men- all in their 20s- went missing around the same time. Matthew Bunker (whose body was recovered at the base of Liberty Ridge). Tatan Sabbagh (whose body was recovered in an o -trail drainage near Paradise) and Sam Dubai (last known to be hiking along the Mowich Lake area of Mount Rainier)went missing at separate times between June 19, 2020 and October 9, 2020."

At the time of the publishing of this book, Sam Dubai had not been found, and his story is included. Mount Rainier has a long history of unusual disappearances that do not o er easy answers, as to what is happening.



Brendon Nepon

Missing: September 27, 2020, Snoqualmie Pass

Age at Disappearance: 37 Years

Water* Canines* Granite* Boulders

The victim in this story is a commercial insurance agent who lived in Seattle and works for a commercial insurance agency in the same city. He was a graduate of the University of Arizona.

Brendon Nepon was an animal lover and owned a mixed-breed dog named Seta.

On Sunday, September 27, Brendon called his mom and said he was taking Seta for a hike and driving to the Snow Lake Trailhead at Snoqualmie Pass.

It is approximately a one-hour drive from downtown Seattle to the pass.

Brendon was not an experienced hiker but loved the outdoors. On the day of his hike, the weather was near perfect, and others were on the trail. It was confirmed that he parked his car at the Snow Lake Trail-head, and he was believed to be headed to Gem Lake, just north of Snow Lake.

The sheri did confirm that others saw Brendon and Seta on the trail.

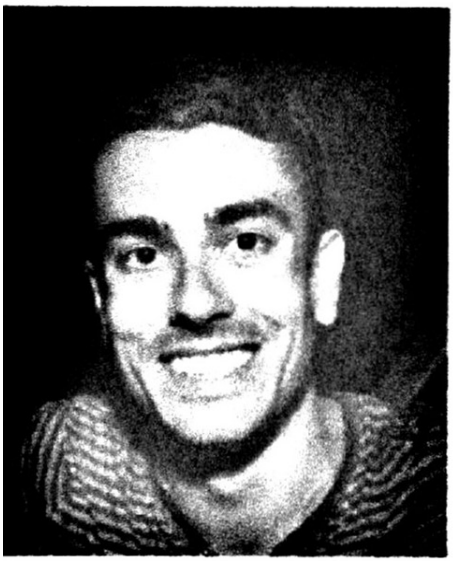
Brendon's mom was expecting him to call Sunday night when he came home, but the call never came. So on Monday morning, she called the Kings County Sheri 's O ice.

The sheri immediately sent a deputy to the Snoqualmie Pass and did locate Brendon's car at the Snow Lake Trailhead. That deputy started to put the pieces together for a SAR.

The seven-day SAR for Brendon included an enormous amount of ground pounders, 366, that worked 2000 hours looking for the insurance agent. They also had drones, planes, and volunteers. They interviewed hikers, placed posters, and made newspaper notifications. The news articles generated contacts from people that saw Brendon and Seta on the trail. The witnesses said he was headed for Gem Lake north of Snow Lake.

MISSING

Brendon Nepon



37 Year Old
5'9" 170lb
White Male
Brown Hair
Brown Eyes

Missing Since
9/27/2020

Possibly hiking to Gem Lake from Snow Lake Trailhead, near Alpental

IF SEEN PLEASE CALL 911

The region of this SAR is filled with large granite boulders, beautiful lakes, and a very scenic area.

I have a di icult time imagining a scenario where Brendon and his dog

both vanish. Neither was ever found.

How a man and his dog can disappear on a hike an hour outside of Seattle on a typical Sunday is troubling.

Dr. Sam Dubai

Missing: October 10, 2020, Mount Rainier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 33 Years Old

Intellect* Cluster* Canines* Weather

Longtime readers know that a subgroup of the missing are highly intelligent individuals. These people's professions have run the gamut from physicists, physicians, engineers, professors, and more. But unfortunately, the vast majority of these people have never been found.

By any definition, Sam Dubai was a highly intellectual individual whose achievements by age 33 are stunning. The website artsci.washington.edu has the following entry about Dr. Dubai: "At Berkeley, Dubai co-founded Radical Medicine, an inclusive collective that brings together activist scholars and community members, including front-line medical workers, united by the goal of re-thinking and re-visioning medical and psychiatric practice."

"For his doctoral research, Dubai conducted intensive fieldwork into the lives of child and youth soldiers in Uganda." Later in the same post was this, "After earning his Ph.D. in medical anthropology in 2015, Dubai received an MD from Harvard Medical School in 2017."

The young physician decided to continue his academic career by joining the University of Washington as an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology.

After starting his teaching career, Sam planned a hike into Mount Rainier National Park. On October 9, 2020, Dubai drove from his residence to the Mowich Trailhead on the park's northwest side. He had told friends and family that he would be o the trail on October 10. Students in the Anthropology department reported Dubai missing on October 12.

The National Park Service immediately responded to the trailhead and found the professor's vehicle. They called for more assistance and requested a helicopter from the 36th Rescue Squadron from Fairchild

Air Force Base in Spokane that utilized Forward Looking Infrared Radar, FLIR.

On October 13, inclement weather kept all air support on the ground. The NPS could field nineteen park rangers, fifteen search and rescue members, and three search dogs. An NPS report indicated that searchers found a distinctive water bottle believed to be Dubai's on the trail. A drone was also put into the sky to get a view from the air.

Mount Rainier National Park

MISSING PERSON

Name: Sam Dubal
Age: 33
Height: 5'09

Weight: 155
Hair: Black with short black beard
Clothing: Possible blue jacket

Sam Dubal was last known to be hiking the Mother Mountain Loop out of the Mowich Lake Trailhead in Mount Rainier National Park on Friday, 09 October 2020 and was due out Saturday, 10 October 2020.

If you were hiking in the Mowich Lake area during this time and have any information on Dubal's whereabouts please contact:

National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park
Division of Visitor and Resource Protection

Tip Line: (360) 569 -6684

The finding of the water bottle is essential. I would put a team into the surrounding area in case something happened at that point, and he went into the woods for concealment or if an animal attacked and drug him into the forest. There is no mention of what the NPS did in response to finding the water bottle.

On October 14, there was better weather inside the park that allowed for the use of the helicopter. Twelve rangers made it to the trail, and fifteen SAR members joined them. On October 15, the strategy of the

SAR changed. Supervisors utilized a Bell 407 helicopter to ferry searchers and rangers to a point deeper into the wilderness to use more time searching and less time getting to the point they wanted to explore.

On October 16, the weather again prevented air operations. There were winds up to 50 MPH in the search zone. I must mention that high winds are hazardous for ground searchers. With high winds come trees that fall, a deadly consequence if not extremely careful. Two teams of Washington German Shepherd Search dogs joined the e ort, along with ten rangers and nine Mountain Rescue SAR members.

The search for Sam primarily included a 17-mile section of the Mother Mountain Loop Trail. First, an assessment had to be made regarding how far Sam could hike in one day. From that distant point to his vehicle is the search zone. Most individuals that are not experienced hikers move down a trail with a pack on their back at a variety of di erent rates. This determination was critical to the search and rescue. NPS did not release this distance or radius of the search.

An October 23, 2020, website post by NPS stated that they were suspending search e orts. Sam's family made a very emotional plea to NPS to continue searching, believing that SAM was a very healthy, young, and vibrant individual who could possibly be alive. There has yet to be a formal response from SAR o icials.

Dr. Dubai took the Mowich Lake Trailhead. A small lake at the start of the trail, and a series of creeks follow the path. Reports indicated that he had a tent, sleeping bag, rain/snow gear, and a cell phone and charger. Unfortunately, there was one critical tool that Sam did not have, a personal locator beacon. If the park service would promote the use of these devices, many people's lives would be saved.

My mind goes back to the water bottle on the trail. It is possible that it fell o the side of his backpack; I don't think so. Is it merely a coincidence that the bottle is found on the trail of someone missing?

It is an understatement to say that Sam was a brilliant person with good intentions and enormous possibilities for life in front of him. Yet, the number of these super intelligent people that have disappeared, unusually and inexplicably, is staggering.

Duane Miles

Missing October 19, 2021, Olympic National Park Age at Disappearance: 78 Years

Cluster Zone* Water* Canines

MISSING PERSON

Olympic National Park requests your assistance in locating this person.

Duane Miles

Physical Description

- Age: 78
- Height: 5'9"
- Weight: 185 lbs
- Eye color: Blue
- Last seen wearing black rain pants, a camouflage jacket, and known to carry a dark colored backpack.

Duane Miles was last seen on October 19, 2021 in Amanda Park, Washington. He was traveling to the Graves Creek area at the end of South Shore Road in the Quinault district of Olympic National Park. According to friends, he intended to hike off trail south of the Graves Creek Campground and exit near the Graves Creek corral.
He has not contacted family or friends since October 19, 2021.

If you have any information regarding this individual
contact the NPS ISB Tip Line at (888) 653-0009.

This case deals with a man who disappeared doing what he loved. The Olympic Peninsula is a very unusual place. I know an on-duty sheri 's deputy who saw a bigfoot on the road between Forks and Quinault Lake; that's a unique story. So to say that someone was born in Forks and spent most of his life there is a pretty darn good place to spend a lifetime.

Duane Miles was born in Forks, played football for Forks High School, and left to spend four years in the United States Army. Part of those Army years was as a ski patrolman, sweet times! Duane returned to Forks, wrote a column for the local newspaper about the outdoors, and worked his way into being an outstanding hunter. Unfortunately,

he learned that he genuinely enjoyed hiking o -trail and collecting elk antlers, which may have led to his demise. Duane enjoyed the outdoors immensely but was also committed to attending his local Baptist Church. He was also a longtime member of the local American Legion.

On October 19, 2021, Duane drove from his residence in Forks south on Highway 101 to the South Shore Road at Lake Quinault and took that to the Graves Creek Campground. He planned to hike o - trail looking for antlers on October 20 and eventually circle back through the Graves Creek Corral. People said they remembered seeing Duane on October 19 at Amanda Park, the last confirmed sighting. When Duane hadn't checked in with friends, they reported him missing. Law enforcement went to the Graves Creek Trailhead and did locate his vehicle.

The National Park Service was the lead organization since it was their jurisdiction, but several SAR organizations participated. The groups included:

- Olympic Mountain Rescue
- Portland Mountain Rescue
- Seattle Mountain Rescue
- Clallam County Search and Rescue
- Everett Mountain Rescue
- Washington Explorer Search and Rescue
- Hood River County Search and Rescue
- Tacoma Mountain Rescue
- Skagit County Search and Rescue
- Kitsap County Search and Rescue Dogs
- German Shepherd Search Dogs
- Clark County Search and Rescue K-p Kodiak
- Snohomish County Trackers

- Olympic Corrections Center Trackers
- Washington State Search and Rescue Planning Unit
- Hillsboro Aviation

*One of the longest lists of search and rescue participants I have ever seen in Washington.

The SAR for Duane lasted ten days. The effort did locate a can of Sardines that some believed belonged to Duane. However, officials have yet to state exactly where this was found.

Duane was doing something exciting, interesting, and challenging, hiking off-trail. Unfortunately, this practice makes tracking the person extremely difficult for the professional tracker and canines.

At the hundreds of conferences, I have spoken, I specifically address hiking o -trail, most commonly practiced by hunters. I explain that if you are deep in the woods and o the trail and break your leg, there is a good chance you will die there—anyone who regularly hikes needs to carry a personal locator beacon. If you are hurt, you activate it, and it sends a signal to a satellite, and eventually, it gets to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. They then send the message to the GPS-matching search and rescue organization. The SAR group will find you within ten feet of the GPS coordinates. I know that Duane would've been a man I'd enjoy meeting. He had a lifetime in the outdoors, was an expert hunter and good writer, served his country like a patriot, and was at 78 years old was still in tremendous shape. I would've liked to hear some of Duane's stories from deep in the woods.

You died doing what you loved, Duane. You controlled your destiny; RIP, Duane Miles.

Laura Macke

Missing: November 1, 2022, Olympic National Park Age at Disappearance: 35 Years

Weather* Cluster Zone* Canines* Water

Olympic National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Olympic National Park

MISSING PERSON

Olympic National Park requests your assistance in locating this person.

LAURA MACKE

Photo of Laura Macke. Note: Laura Macke is known to hike in a black and white striped shirt, black rain jacket & maroon colored puffy jacket. She uses a green Hemo tent.

Physical Description

- Age: 35
- Height: 5'6"
- Weight: 200lbs
- Hair: Curly & light brown in a bob cut

CALL or TEXT the Tip Line 888-653-0009

ONLINE nps.gov/SubmitATip

EMAIL nps_isb@nps.gov

EMERGENCY dial 9-1-1

Laura Macke was driving to Quinault on 10/30 during a significant rainstorm with the intention to hike to Enchanted Valley. Her backcountry permit had her camping at Pyrites Creek on 10/30 and exiting the backcountry on 10/31, however she indicated she would still be in the backcountry on 11/1. If you were in the area of Lake Quinault, Graves Creek or Enchanted Valley between 10/30 and 11/1 or have any information regarding this individual, please call or text the tip line below.

contact the NPS ISB Tip Line at (888) 653-0009.

Laura Macke was a licensed therapist from Burlington, Vermont. Her professional page states that her expertise centers on treating mental health and substance use. This is the short statement she left on her page, “Change happens in a safe relationship that is witnessed. You get to interview me, determine the fit, give feedback and also challenge me; my job is to be present and a witness for growth. I am especially effective with those wanting to break generational trauma patterns, learn healthy communication patterns, and become boundary aware.”

Laura entered the park in a driving rainstorm on October 30. She probably did not realize that the storm would drop 8-10 inches of rain over the next several days. She obtained a backcountry permit from the National Park Service to camp at Pyrites Creek on October 30, and then the plan was for her to leave the park on October 31. This was not a rigorous schedule.

Laura never exited the park, and her family reported her missing on November 2. A search was initiated by NPS almost instantly. The park service poster states that they were focusing on Lake Quinault, Graves Creek, and Enchanted Valley.

Soon after Laura vanished, NPS found that the bridge to Enchanted Valley had been washed out. The NPS statement indicated the bridge would return to service in May of 2023. A later report from NPS stated they were focusing their search on the Pony Creek bridge area and Fire Creek.

Even though Olympic National Park had refused to allow a Coast Guard helicopter to search their park for Jacob Gray, they did allow it to search for Laura. The NPS also brought in canines and drones to assist in finding the therapist.

I admire the e ort that Laura's dad made to find his daughter. After hearing of the disappearance, he responded to the park and spent days on the trail and o looking for any indications of where Laura may be located.

Angela Macke stated on her Facebook page that something belonging to Laura had been found, indicating she was in the search area. However, Angela refused to say what was found or where it was located. The formal search for Laura was terminated because of weather-related issues.

Laura did many things correctly. She notified the family where she was going and when she was going in. She obtained a backcountry permit from the National Park Service. I have yelled this at every conference, and I will continue to yell it; every hiker going anywhere needs to carry a personal locator beacon. If you are alone and like to hike o trail, if you break your leg, you aren't moving; it is that painful. If you can't move and there's nobody in the area, you are going to die there. If you had a personal locator beacon, you could activate it. The device sends a message to a satellite and to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. They see the GPS coordinates, determine the search and rescue jurisdiction and then

notify them of the GPS coordinates and the activation. The local SAR team will dispatch a group, and they will find the transmitter within ten feet.

List of Missing in Washington by Date

Missing Person Date Missing* Age* Sex

Gordon Nevins 07/08/08* 16* M

John Gurrad 07/31/09* 35* M

Charles Schmidt 11/29/10-5:00pm* Unk*M

Walter Hays 12/22/12* 25* M

W.T. Ho man 11/24/21-7:00pm* 76* M

Mary Temple 04/18/28* 3* F

Edward Gross 10/04/31* 46* M

Julius Bakken 11/09/31-Noon* 21* M

I.R. Snyder 11/01/37* 70* M

Jackie Helman 01/02/41-3pm* 6*M

Ezra Simmons 12/16/41* 41* M

Frances Desautel 12/16/41* 55* M

Lars Fjeld 10/19/45-pm* 89* M

Joe Blackburn 11/01/46* 34* M

Curtis Commando R5C 12/10/46* 32 Men Missing

Gaston Mayes 03/11/49-2pm* 22* M

Benjamin Vreeland 03/11/49-2pm* 25* M

Daryl Webley 04/30/49*2*M

Donald McDonald 12/15/49* 17* M

Tommy Jenkins 05/04/50* 2* M

Joe Carter 05/21/50-3pm* 32* M

Marcella Ramiskey 07/01/50-5pm* 4* F

Gunnar Peterson 08/06/50* 65* M

Bobby Boatman 10/14/51* 14* M

Joyce Abel 10/16/54-lpm* 5* F

John Davis 08/26/56-72-M

Jim Eaton 11/26/56« 74* M

Richard Craig 08/15/57-5-M

Lowell Linn 11/31/57-pm« 23« M

David Adams 05/03/58-pm« 8« M

Fred Kramer 07/19/61« 59* M

Lorne Bailey 08/22/61« 16« M

Ann Marie Burr 08/31/61-5:30am« 8« F

George Weber 10/22/61« 74« M

Claude Goodwin 06/16/63«8«M

Bobby Panknin 08/03/63«4«M Wagner Robinson 11/13/65« 28« M

Leonard Vacknitz 11/18/65-3:00 pm« 43« M

Arthur Norburg 12/05/66« 35« M

Robert Kepner 09/21/67« 22« M

John Stratton 10/18/67« 79« M

Milton Armstrong 09/14/68« 54« M

Kevin Conner 08/26/71-9:30 pm« 13« M

Mark Peal 08/26/71-9:30 pm« 10« M

James Annis 11/13/71« 16« M

Donald Siskar 07/10/73-3:30pm« 18« M

Jimmy Du y 10/19/73«2«M

Je rey Bratcher 06/15/74«7«M

David Taylor 11/18/74« 23« M

Steve Martin 08/16/75«15«M

Rodger Kerch 11/4/79« 15« M

Steven Kelch 09/05/85« 28« M

Tom Klein 09/08/86«27«M

James Kampe 10/27/90-1:00 PM- 38- M

Stefan Bissert 01/20/92-pm* 23* M

Paige Adriance 07/03/92-3pm* 8- F

Bill McKinnon 02/14/93-pm* 28« M

Bryce Herda 04/09/95*4*M

Blair Grandstrom 06/03/95-3:00 am* 20* M

John Devine 09/06/97- 2pm* 73* M

Harry March Jr. 10/07/97* 76* M

Raymond Matlock 11/07/98*28*M

William Tietjen 06/20/99-5:30 pm* 27* M

Joseph Wood Jr. 07/08/99＝2pm* 34* M

Chris Hartonas 11/05/99* 40* M

Raymond Vakili 11/05/99* 48* M

Richard R. Lee 09/11/04* 47* M Gregory Brown 07/05/05*49*M

Zachary Weston 08/10/05* 22* M

Gilbert Gilman 06/24/06*47* M

Lindsey Baum 06/22/09* 10*F

Eric Lewis 07/01/10* 57* M

Paige Wilson 08/20/10-4pm* 8* F

Dwight Clark 09/26/10-2:00 am* 18* M

Patti Krieger 10.21.10-lpm* 65* F

Hildegard Hendrickson 06/08/13- 5pm* 79* F

Brian Lee Johnston 08/28/13* 71* M

Karen Sykes 06/18/14-10:40 pm* 70* F

James Gri in 12/22/14-4:00 pm* 60* M

Dr. John Marshall 01/25/15-5:33am* 49* M

Jerry Hyasman 10/04/16-AM* 55* M

Kris Fowler 10/12/16* 34* M

Melvin Burtch 10/25/16* 31* M

Jacob Gray 04/05/17* 22* M

Samantha Sayers 08/01/18-6pm* 27* F

Victor Djie 06/19/2020* 24* M

Brendon Nepon 09/27/20* 37* M

Dr. Sam Dubai 10/10/20* 33* M

Duane Miles 10/19/21* 78* M

Laura Macke 11/01/22* 35* F

Total Cases 86

Total Missing (Excluding Curtis Commando) 88

Total Missing Including Curtis Commando: 120

Men: 61 (69%)

Women: 27 (31%)

Most Disappearances by Year (Excluding Airplane

Crashes):

Four

1950, 1999, 2010

Disappearances by Month/ Percentage of Total

January: 3 (3.4%)

February 1 (1%)

March: 1 (1%)

April: 4 (4.5%)

May: 3 (3.4%)

June: 9 (10.2%)

July:9 (10.2%)

August: 13 (14.7%

September: 8 (9%)

October: 15 (17%)

November: 16(18.1%)

December: 5 (6.8%)

The large number of missing people during October and November can be accounted for by hunter being in the wilderness.

Cluster Map Anomalies

Many readers have asked me why I continually place maps with the state books; the answer is in front of you with the Washington map. I never knew how close some of these cases were to each other.

#1- Jimmy Duffy & Hildegard Hendrickson

I have always found the disappearance of Jimmy Duffy to be one of the most unusual missing person cases I have ever investigated. The circumstances surrounding the incident are baffling and unusual. When I placed the Duffy case on the map, I was surprised to find it just five air miles from the Hildegard Hendrickson disappearance. Jimmy Duffy was with his family while hunting, and Hildegard was mushroom picking. While the activities do not match, the unusual nature of the cases and the proximity to each other are compelling. Hildegard was not going to go off trail; she stated this. Her car was found with her purse in it. Searchers indicated that they heard very unusual sounds in the area.

Jimmy Duffy and Hildegard Hendrickson were never found. Go to Google Earth and look at the area between Telma, Washington, and Twin Lakes. This region has never been logged and includes old-growth timber and a wild state section.

#2-Mount Rainier National Park & Region

This is the largest cluster of missing people in the State of Washington. Fourteen people are missing from the park, which matches our profile. You can also add thirty-two men that disappeared on the military flight that crashed into the mountain, and not one body was recovered. Just east of the park, there are four additional missing people, three are hunters.

Mount Rainier is not very large in the world of national parks, yet it contains the most significant number of missing people. I want readers to understand that I excluded 95% of all the climbing-related people who went missing on a technical climbing expedition.

The incidents on Mount Rainier are baffling and very hard to understand. There are many other missing cases on Mount Rainier, but since they didn't match our profile, they were excluded.

#3-Blair Grandstrom & Dwight Clark

I penned the book, Missing 411- A Sobering Coincidence. I explained how a series of young men, primarily college-aged, disappeared and were later found in a body of water. These disappearances were clustered in certain areas. Many incidents happened near college campuses near water, but not every college near water has these cases. Blair and Dwight were college students in Bellingham, Washington. Both disappeared late at night and were later found in a bay under highly unusual circumstances.

Your mind may try to justify these disappearances as everyday college life, but they are not. There are hundreds of these incidents worldwide. The John Marshall incident in Spokane also matches this profile. Although Dr. Marshall was not a young man, he was an intellectual.

#4- Longitude Awareness

I want readers to look at Neah Bay, Washington. Draw a line directly east across the map until you reach Newport on the Idaho border.

Return to the map's western side, where the Hoh River empties into the Pacific Ocean. Draw another line directly east until you reach Newman Lake, Washington. Inside those two longitudinal lines, the map has 23 missing people. The Adriance, Sayers, and Hendrickson cases are nearly on the same longitudinal line, just sixty miles apart. This is the closest thing we have to a cluster of missing women.

#5- Bryce Herda and Robert Kepner

Bryce Herda and Robert Kepner disappeared in almost the exact location. Herda vanished in April 1995, and Kepner vanished in September 1967. Eighteen years and 300 yards separate the incidents.

The Boys

Washington is a very unique state in regards to the number of missing people. Of the twenty-two people listed as missing,

eleven are boys under age ten. There are no girls under ten listed. The ratio of adult males to females missing is close: six to five. The cluster of missing over the Washington Cascades includes eight boys under the age of ten: Duffy, Goodwin, and Panknin (eastern edge of the Cascades). I would now like you to refer to the books covering Crater Lake and notice the number of missing boys in the Oregon Cascades under the age of ten.

Here is the timeline of missing boys under age ten in the Cascades: Age/Missing Person Location« Date

8/D. Adams WA* 05/03/58

8/M. Ryan OR-06/30/60

8/C. Goodwin WA*06/16/63

4/B. Panknin WA*08/03/63

2/J. Duffy WA-10/19/73

9/N. Madsen OR* 10/22/89

8/D. Engbretson OR* 12/05/98

8/S. Boehlke OR* 10/04/06

Here are eight boys between two and nine years old who disappeared under highly unusual circumstances in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. Goodwin and Panknin disappeared in the same state only forty-three days apart, and the locations of their disappearances were a mere seventy-five miles apart.

If you look just to the northwest of the Washington Cascades to Vancouver Island, the proliferation of missing boys under ten continues. The disappearances of these boys are just far enough apart not to alert law enforcement, or the media, of the commonality among these cases.

Disappearances by Age of the Missing Person:

Excludes Curtis Commando Incident

If an age isn't listed, it means there were no missing for that age bracket. Age/ Number of Missing

2-3 18-2

3-1 20-1

4-2 21-1

5-2 22-4

6-2 23-3

7-1 24-1

8-5 25-2

10-2 27-3

13-1 28-4

14-1 30-1

15-2 31-1

16-3 32-1

17-1 33-1

34-3 59-1

35-3 60-1

37-1 65-2

38-1 70-2

40-1 71-1

43-1 72-1

46-1 73-1

47-2 74-2

48-1 76-2

49-2 78-1

54-1 79-2

55-2 89-1

57-1

National Park Disappearances

In the State of Washington, this book focuses on the following properties under the control of the National Park Services, Mount St. Helens National Monument, Mount Rainier National Park, and Olympic National Park. Each location has its anomalies that we will outline below. Listed below are the disappearances in Mount Rainier National Park that we have been able to research that match our profile. There may be more cases, but the national park claims they do not have lists of missing people. These lists from each park result from extensive research, patience, and commitment to the task.

Mount Rainier National Park: Missing People

Size: 236,381 Acres

Name/ Date

Curtis Commando Crash 12/10/46

Marcella Ramiskey 07/01/50

Lowell Linn 11/31/57

Milton Armstrong 09/14/68

David Taylor 11/18/74

Steven Kelch 09/05/85

James Kampe 10/27/90

Dr. William Tietjen 06/20/99

James Wood 07/08/99

Chris Hartonas 11/05/99

Raymond Vakili 11/05/99

Zachary Weston 08/10/05

Eric Lewis 07/01/10

Karen Sykes 06/18/14

Victor Djie 06/19/20

Dr. Sam Dubai 10/10/20

One year of this list jumps out as unusual, 1999. There is no other year that has three disappearances; 1999 has four. It is highly unusual when two people disappear in the same incident, and this again happened in 1999. Not one overriding weather issue impacted these cases, and the three incidents occurred in three different months. WorldBank.org says the ratio of physicians to the USA population is 2.6 per thousand. Thirteen percent of the missing people on Mount Rainier were physicians that were never found, which matched our profile.

It is important to remember that the thirty-two brave soldiers that died on Mount Rainier in the Curtis Commander crash were not included in the totals. Not one of the service men's bodies was recovered.

Olympic National Park: Missing People

Size: 1,441 Square Miles

Name/ Date

Stefan Bissert 01/20/92

John Devine 09/06/97

Gilbert Gilman 06/24/06

Byron Johnston 08/28/13

James Gri in 12/22/14

Jacob Gray 04/15/17

Duane Miles 10/19/21

Laura Macke 11/01/22 It is unusual that the nine people missing in Olympic National Park that match our profile points vanished in di erent months.

I tried to find cases in Olympic before 1992 for several years, but we found none matching our profile.

Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument- Missing People

Size: 172 Square Miles

Name/ Date

Ed Gross 10/04/31

Joe Carter 05/21/50

Joe Carter's disappearance ranks near the top as one of the most unusual cases I have ever researched. Suffice it to say that the mountain has a fascinating history that started in 1924 with a group of prospectors that made a startling allegation about an attack; look it up.

Conclusion

It is very hard to get a grasp on a topic by reading one book about one state. I hope this book lights a fire in your heart to understand the overall picture. These disappearances are not happening in just the United States, we have documented these cases in Canada, Australia, England, France, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Borneo, Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Russia, Israel and New Zealand. While nineteen countries have been written about, we have no doubt this will evolve into an issue involving the majority of the countries in the world.

The State of Washington is quite unique, from its gorgeous coastal region, three properties under the control of the National Park Service and the eastern region of the state. The ten clusters of missing people in the Washington will bring a greater awareness to missing people in the Evergreen State.

You can follow our work on YouTube at the CanAm Missing Project and at our missing person website at www.canammissing.com.

I am very grateful for the thousands of people who have supported our work in the last ten years. We have never asked for donations, we just ask you support us by purchasing our books and donating them to libraries after they are read.

The greatest gift you can give anyone who hiked in the wilderness is a personal locator beacon. You can find them on Amazon.com, REI and most outdoor stores. This item is the size of a small cell phone. When activated, it sends a signal to a satellite and then onto the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration indicating someone is in distress and needs assistance. NOAA determines the GPS coordinates of the transponder and sends SAR teams to within ten feet of the signal. These transponders have saved hundreds of lives and they could save thousands more if people knew about it. If you know a hunter, hiker, fisherman or trail runner, get them this gift for the holidays.

Thanks again for your support.

You can always email me directly at Missing411@ yahoo.com

The Missing 411 Collection

Missing 411: Western United States

The eastern and western books were originally one book. I split and published them as two books, which I released one month apart.

Published: February 2, 2012

367 pages

Covers the western United States and Canada

Missing 411: Eastern United States

Published: March 5, 2012

358 pages

Covers the eastern United States

Missing 411: North America and Beyond

Published: February 28, 2013

488 pages

New stories of missing people from the United States, Canada, Australia, England, France, Iceland, and Indonesia

Missing 411: The Devil's in the Detail

Published: April 18, 2014

446 pages

New stories from the United States, Canada, Australia, Borneo, Ecuador, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Austria. There is an extensive analysis in the back of the book of cases from the first four books, including statistics.

Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence

Published: July 22, 2015

398 pages

This book exposes an entirely new set of unusual disappearances with young men found in bodies of water. Cases are documented from the United States, Canada, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Missing 411: Hunters- 2nd ED

Published: June 21, 2016

362 pages

These are stories of armed hunters who disappeared under very unusual circumstances. Cases are documented from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Azerbaijan. Missing 411: O the Grid

Published: September 16, 2017

401 Pages

Entirely new stories from the United States, Canada, and six other countries. Tables, lists, and analysis from past books are in the conclusions. Statements from SAR personnel are highlighted.

Missing 411: LAW

Published: September 2018

375 Pages

This is a new spoke in the investigative wheel that presents a series of aircraft disappearances United States, Scotland and Australia. The book also presents recently released studies of land-based vanishing in the United States, Canada, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom. The manuscript ends covering geographical triangles and water related disappearances.

Missing 411: Canada

Published: October 2019

351 Pages

The first book we have published about a province in Canada. This is also the first book we have sold that comes with a full size cluster map. The stories in this book have ba led thousands. The number of missing person clusters will confound readers because of the numbers and their proximity to population zones.

Missing 411: Montana

Published: December 2019

Book #1 in the State Series

289 Pages Plus State Cluster Map

This is the first book in our new State Series. This book is dedicated to missing people in the State of Montana and includes a full-size driving map with missing people's names and locations inserted onto the map.

Missing 411: Idaho

Published: February 2022

Book #2 in the State Series

287 Pages Plus State Cluster Map

This is the second book in our new State Series. This book is dedicated to missing people in the State of Idaho and includes a full-size driving map with missing people's names and locations inserted onto the map. Please DO NOT ever purchase our books through Amazon, eBay, etc:

you will pay 3-4 times as much as you would if you purchased it through our own online site. We do not sell on at any other online location.

Our own transactional site: https ://www.nabigfoot- search.com/ Bigfootstore.html

Missing 411 Documentaries

We are very proud to say that we have produced three documentaries that went to #1 in the world. These CAN BE watched on Amazon, or you can purchase the DVD or Blu Ray directly from our store listed above.

Name of Movies:

Missing 411

Missing 411 The Hunted

Missing 411 The UFO Connection